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D-Day, Orange Beach 3

BLILIOU (PELELIU) HISTORICAL PARK STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Background and Purpose

In August 1978 the United States enacted Public Law 95-348 establishing the War in the Pacific National Historical Park on Guam. The park's purpose was "to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the campaigns of the Pacific theater of World War II" and to preserve and interpret select battle sites related to the recapture of Guam during World War II.

Public Law 95-348 also required the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of other areas and sites associated with the Pacific campaign of World War II. Section 6(h) of that law directed:

The Secretary, through the Director of the National Park Service, shall conduct and transmit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives a study of additional areas and sites associated with the Pacific campaign of World War II. The study shall contain a description and evaluation of each area or site, and an estimated cost of acquisition, development, and maintenance of the area or site, if appropriate, together with such additional authority as may be needed to enable him to implement his recommendations. The Secretary shall concentrate his study within Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, but shall also investigate additional areas and sites within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to the extent possible and may include other areas and sites in the Pacific area if practicable.

The General Management Plan for War in the Pacific National Historical Park (April 1983) identifies additional sites on Guam. *A historic resources study, Historic Resources, War in the Pacific National Historical Park, Guam* (1984) by National Park Service historian Erwin N. Thompson identifies and summarizes NPS knowledge of other World War II sites on Guam. The general management plan and the historic resources study form the resource base for responding to Section 6(h) of Public Law 95-348 with regard to additional sites on Guam.

For those additional areas and sites outside Guam, the National Park Service in 1985 carried out a national historic landmark theme study of World War II in the Pacific. This study, also by historian Thompson, describes and evaluates theme related resources in more than 50 separate locations. The study was divided into four general subthemes: (1) Japanese Expansion in the Pacific, (2) The United States Home Front, (3) Alaska and the Aleutians, and (4) The United States' Central Pacific Drive. The geographic area surveyed consisted of United States territory in the states of Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as Midway and Wake islands; and it also included the area encompassing the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, from which four political entities have emerged: the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The study determined that within this expanse there were certain theme-related areas and sites that were of national significance and possessing sufficient integrity to warrant being nominated for designation as national historic landmarks. Most of these areas and sites

have since been designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior.

Figure 1. Location Map, The Pacific Ocean Islands; portions of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

The purpose of this study is to examine those national historic landmarks within the two subthemes, United States' Central Pacific Drive and Japanese Expansion in the Pacific, and to determine whether any of these nationally significant areas or sites are feasible for inclusion within the national park system. Those considered were Kwajalein, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Roi-Namur, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Enewetok, Republic of the Marshall Islands; Truk Lagoon, Federated States Micronesia; Ulithi, Federated States of Micronesia; portions of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Peleliu, Republic of Palau; Hickam Air Force Base, Wheeler Field, Kaneohe Naval Air Station, Fort Shafter (Palm Circle), and CINCPAC Headquarters, all in the State of Hawaii; and Midway and Wake islands, both U. S. Possessions. Of these, the areas examined, four appear to meet the criteria as potential additions to the national park system: Peleliu, Truk Lagoon, and portions of Saipan and a related site on Tinian. The others presently are active military bases or without public access and consequently judged to be infeasible at this time.

This report deals with the island of Peleliu, the name it was known by to American G.I.'s.

BLILIOU (PELELIU)

Study Setting

The Republic of Palau, occupying the westernmost archipelago of the Caroline Islands, became self-governing on January 1, 1981 under a constitution originally ratified in the referendum of July 1979. The constitution provides for a bicameral legislature, an executive branch, a judiciary and state governments. The president is the chief executive and is aided in an advisory capacity by a council of chiefs (these are the traditional chiefs, one from each of the states) on matters dealing with traditional laws and customs.

Palau is composed of 16 states (see Figure 2), each with an elected executive officer, an elected legislative body, and a major chief heading the ranking state council of chiefs. These states were originally loosely tied village clusters, becoming municipalities during the Trust Territory period. Each of the states has an approved constitution.

Tradition remains very strong in Palau. The national constitution incorporates an article designed to protect traditional rights; i.e., the government is enjoined from taking any action to prohibit or revoke the role or function of a traditional leader as recognized by custom and tradition that is not consistent with the constitution. In case of a conflict, a statute prevails "only to the extent it is not in conflict with the underlying principles of the traditional law."

Historically, Palauan society was (and still is) organized into villages that were traditionally ruled by a council of 10 male chiefs and a parallel advisory staff of 10 female elders, each representing one of the ranking clans of the village clusters. As noted, these village clusters, municipalities during Trust Territory times, are today's states. Usually the male council addressed matters relating to the local economy, welfare, and law and order. The female council concerned itself mainly with matters of inheritance and interlineage or interclan peace.

Land and money were regarded as communal property of an individual's clan group and

guarded by the female elders of the clan. Each Palauan was obligated to contribute money to the clan as an expression of loyalty, especially on occasions such as birth, death, marriage, divorce, the purchase of a house or a canoe. This is still largely true today.

The land base of Palau consists of ten major islands -- Babeldaob, Oreor, Ngerkebesang, Ngerukdabel, Mecherchar, Bliliou, Ngeaur, Ngeruengl, Sonsorol, and Tobi 1 -- lying along a northeast/southeast axis and covering about 178 square miles in total area. The entire archipelago consists of about 350 volcanic and limestone islands. Babeldaob, the largest island, covers about 128 square miles or more than 70 percent of the entire land base; however, it is on the smaller island of Oreor to the south where most of the population resides and where most of the economic activity takes place; Oreor is also the capital. Only eight of the islands have permanent residents. Below Oreor lie about 200 small pristine and unique coral limestone islands popularly referred to as the "Rock Islands." To the south is the island of Bliliou, the scene of one of the most fierce and bloody battles of World War II. The 1982 study, "Natural Landmarks Survey of the Islands of the Pacific," prepared for the National Park Service, described the islands of Palau as "among the most remarkable geological and biological features in the world."

Figure 2. States of the Republic of Palau



Bliliou today, peaceful and tranquil, along what is called Honeymoon Beach by local residents. In 1944 this was the site of one of the invasion beaches...then called Purple.

All of the major islands except Ngeaur, a small atoll at the southern end of Palau, are enclosed within a single barrier reef nearly 100 miles long. Many of the individual islands, including Bliliou, have their own fringing reefs. There are two atolls to the north outside of the barrier reef, Ngeruengl and Ngcheangl. Some 300 miles to the south are Helen Reef, an atoll with a small islet, and Tobi and Merir, two small islets. Palau's constitution defined the country's territory and jurisdiction to include "all of the islands of the Palauan archipelago, the internal waters..." and "the territorial waters extending out to 200 nautical miles."

Most of the islands of Palau are covered by dense, heterogeneous tropical forests, except Babeldaob where there are extensive areas of savannah and grasslands. These latter areas have been maintained and extended by fire. Mangrove forests grow along most of Babeldaob's coastline, portions of Oreor's and along the northern end of Bliliou's. Subsistence crops are grown on all the major islands. The principal crops consist of taro, cassava, sweet potato, coconut, and banana.

All of Babeldaob, portions of Oreor and its immediate vicinity are volcanic in origin. The rest of Palau -- Mecherchar, Ngerukdabel, Bliliou, Ngeaur, as well as the rest of Oreor, are of limestone formation. These limestone islands often have no soil material, only a layer of leaves and humus. Mecherchar and Ngerukdabel are precipitous and high, Bliliou and Ngeaur are low platforms. Most of Palau's shoreline is fringed with mangrove forest or cliffs; the islands of Bliliou and Ngeaur contain the longest stretches of sand beaches. Babeldaob contains the only perennial streams on Palau.



Oreor, Palau's capital, is one of the most scenic towns in Micronesia with superb views of the Rock Islands to the south.

The Rock Islands, formed by the weathering of ancient uplifted reefs, have evolved into umbrella-like shapes as their limestone bases erode away. Some of the larger islands are more than 650 feet in height and the larger islands contain biologically unique, marine lakes. All are crowned with dense, tropical forest cover.

Located about 7-1/2 degrees above the equator, Palau's climate is tropical. Consequently, the annual temperature variation is minimal. The mean annual temperature is 81 degrees F. Relative humidity averages about 90 percent at night and 75 to 80 percent during the day. Typhoons are possible but rare. Palau is subject to two wind patterns during the year: the northeast trades from December through March and the southwest monsoons, which are associated with the passage of the doldrums belt through this Pacific area, from June through October. This latter period coincides with the high rainfall period in Palau. The total annual rainfall is nearly 150 inches.

The present population of Palau is estimated to be about 15,000 residents. Except for the island of Oreor where approximately 10,000 people reside, population density is low compared to the rest of Micronesia. Palau has a lower birth and death rate and the median age is higher. According to 1980 U. S. Census figures, there were 12,116 residents of the then Palau District. The 1980 population figure arrived at by the Palau Office of Public Affairs for all Palauans was 14,989. If both these figures are correct, this would mean that there are 2,873 Palauans, or nearly 20 percent of the population, who live abroad. The 1973 census of the Trust Territory showed the Palau District with a resident population of 12,674.

Besides government work, which accounts for more than 60 percent of the total annual wages earned, Palau's principal economic sectors are fishing, agriculture, trade and tourism. Fishing and agriculture make up about 17 percent of the economy and trade another 16 percent. While contributing to only a small portion of the economy, tourism appears to have the greatest potential for growth since the bulk of Palau's wealth undoubtedly lies in its rich and spectacular waters. Most of Palau's budgetary resources for operations, capital improvement, and economic development comes from the United States. Jobs in the wage sector are located mostly in the Oreor area. Palau's tuna packing plant and copra mill which closed down operations several years ago are both scheduled to start up again under new management. Both were major sources of employment. The Micronesian Mariculture Demonstration Center on the island of Malakal is where giant clams, *Tridacna derasa*, are planted and grown for commercial use. This has been a successful operation, both in terms of restoring the once abundant giant clams to Palau's waters for use as a food source and exporting them to other Pacific islands.

There are three major hotels in Palau; two on Oreor, the 56-room Nikko Hotel and the 47-room Palau Hotel, and one on nearby Ngerkebesang, the newly built Palau Pacific Resort. The latter is a 64-acre resort complex containing 100 rooms.

In 1985 Palau completed its major airport. Located at the southern end of Babeldaob, the facility is serviced several times per week by major airlines from the United States, Japan, Australia, and the Philippines, as well as connecting flights from Europe.

A super port/oil refinery complex was proposed in the 1970's but became controversial and was never built. Similarly, the proposed use of substantial portions of Babeldaob by the U. S. military was rejected by Palauans.

According to the Pacific Islands Year Book (1984), visitors to Palau in 1982 contributed nearly \$2 million to the economy. The bulk of these visitors are tourists who come to enjoy the extraordinary natural beauty of places like Palau's Rock Islands. Tourism has also given rise to related businesses such as scuba diving shops, tour buses, boat and airplane sightseeing, hotels and restaurants.

Tourism

While still modest in terms of numbers, tourism in Palau has increased dramatically since 1980. During this period, a more than 400% increase in overall visitation has occurred, while visitation increased at about the same rate. Visitors from Japan make up the largest single group of tourists -- nearly all of the Japanese visitors who come to Palau are tourists. American tourists, while not as numerous as those from Japan, have also increased their numbers substantially.

[Table A. Visitors to Palau, 1980-1989](#)

Gross revenues from tourism are estimated at \$8 million annually. The Rock Islands, with their white sand beaches, world-class diving and lush vegetation, are recognized by many in Palau as having great development potential for tourists and as a source of economic gain.

Land Ownership and Tenure in Palau

The land tenure system in Palau is derived from the traditional clan system. The clan as a group held title to its lands and individuals could not transfer ownership without clan approval. Land and its resources were held by a single clan, clans, or a village. Public lands and waters generally belonged to a single village or occasionally a group of villages. Although village residents could enter these lands and waters to take its resources, non-residents had to seek permission of village chiefs.

Individual tenure did not exist until German times (1899-1914). Until then, fee simple ownership of land was unknown. Lands within the village were assigned to clan members by the chief. These included lands to be used for home sites, taro farming, wood lots, and palm forests. Ownership of these lands was documented by oral tradition and the uses to which the land was put. Boundaries might change over time.

Three general forms of land tenure occur in Palau: public community tenure, kin group tenure, and individual tenure. The first, the so-called public lands, traditionally were community lands belonging to a village or cluster of villages and controlled by the village or district council. These consisted of the uninhabited, undeveloped lands used primarily for hunting and gathering (wild pigeons and wild yams), timber, or transit. They were accessible, however, only to the residents of the nearby villages; non-residents first had to obtain permission to enter and use these lands. When the Germans arrived on Palau, they declared all of these uninhabited lands to be the property of the government. The offshore reefs and fishing grounds traditionally have been considered to be public too. Commercial fishing in an area in which the fisherman is not a resident requires approval.

When the Japanese arrived, they recognized and retained those lands which the Germans had declared to be in public ownership. In 1932 a land survey was undertaken by the

Japanese to distinguish the private from the public lands. Legal recognition of individual land ownership resulted from the Japanese land register. The survey, however, was never completed and never fully recognized by Palauans. Following World War II, Palauans attempted to regain title to some of the public lands designated by the Japanese and made requests to the U. S. Trust Territory government for the return of their lands.

The process of land registration continued during the Trust Territory period. In 1966, the Land Commission Act established land commissions at the territorial and district levels, including Palau, and also land registration teams. The law required that all land parcels in the Trust Territory be registered and recorded, and that boundaries and title be established. It also set up a procedure to determine legal ownership on disputed parcels.

Under the Trust Territory government, public lands could be homesteaded. By establishing productive use of a tract of land for a period of three years, the homesteader could be granted title. Homesteading of public lands, however, was halted in 1974 and title to the public lands was transferred to district authority to be administered by the Palau Land Authority.

The Trust Territory government provided the means by which Palauans whose lands were lost or destroyed during the Japanese period or during World War II could file claims for compensation. The War Claims Act of 1971 also provided the legal means for Palauans to make claim against the U. S. and Japan for damages done to their lands during World War II. Bliliou was the area most affected by these claims since its residents were evacuated by the Japanese and its lands severely damaged during the World War II battle there.

Under Palau's Constitution, homesteading of public lands can once again be resumed. Presently, there are about 77,000 acres of public lands in Palau; about 9,000 of these have been committed to municipal uses and administrative services, the rest remains in open space. Some of these public lands are leased. These public lands are being reviewed by the Republic of Palau to see if any should be in private ownership.

Compact of Free Association

After long negotiations, Palau and the United States have approved a Compact of Free Association as the basis for their future relationship with each other. Under the provisions of the Compact, Palau has achieved its desired autonomy and is at the same time retaining its ties with the United States.

The Compact, which was signed by the two parties in August 1982, calls for Palau to be fully self-governing. The United States is to provide grants for economic assistance. The actual funding for economic assistance is to last for 15 years; after that, the funding will come from investment in interest bearing instruments of the United States made during the first year. In return for the economic assistance, the United States is to obtain contingency land-use rights for military purposes. The period of the free association relationship is to be for 50 years but could be terminated at any time, either by mutual agreement or unilaterally.

In September 1986, the Compact of Free Association with Palau was approved by Congress and signed by the President; it constitutes both a public law and an international agreement for the United States.

Palau's final approval of the Compact, however, has been delayed because of that document's inconsistency with the nuclear-free provision contained in Palau's Constitution. Several plebiscites have been held to attempt to override the constitutional ban on nuclear substances being introduced on Palau's soil and in its territorial waters --

under Palauan law, a three-quarters majority of the voters is required. However, asking three-quarters of the electorate of any democracy to agree on an issue is a formidable task -- maybe even an impossible one (one of the plebiscites to override the constitutional ban on nuclear substances resulted in a 72 percent voter approval, a remarkable consensus) -- and these plebiscites have been unsuccessful. In August 1987, Palau held a national referendum to amend their constitution and remove the nuclear-free provision. Following the successful passage of that referendum, the voters of Palau approved the Compact of Free Association with the United States by 73 percent majority (only a simple majority was needed for Compact approval).

Final approval of the Compact has not occurred. Based on a lawsuit filed in April 1988, the Palau Supreme Court ruled that the referendum to change the constitution was illegal. In December 1989, final approval of the Compact by the U. S. was signed into law. However, the Compact cannot be implemented until it is approved under provisions of Palau's constitution and free from legal challenge. The latest plebiscite, the seventh, was held in February 1990 and, once again, the results were short of the 75 percent needed to override the constitutional ban on nuclear substances.

Bliliou

To today's visitor (and even to military intelligence specialists in 1944), at a distance, Bliliou looks like a small, low, densely forested island with white sand beaches along its east and west sides. On the east, the beaches lay along a narrow ridge that separates the sea from extensive mangrove swamps and a salt water estuary that together comprise nearly a third of the island. Salt water crocodiles still haunt this swamp. The mangrove was, and remains, a wild place.

Figure 3. Peleliu 1944; Bliliou Today



White Beach and Orange Beach, where under devastating fire U. S. Marines landed in 1944. The airstrip is clearly visible inland from the beaches.

As it was in 1944, most of the island is now covered by native tropical rainforest growing on a level limestone plain (probably this plain represents a sea terrace level from older times). On this plain the Japanese had an excellent airfield; many traces remain of it and its main runway is still used -- although not maintained and being encroached by forest vegetation. Most of Bliliou lies within the wide barrier reef which forms the great lagoon of Palau. Bliliou anchors the south edge of the barrier reef and there, immediately near shore, the sea falls away quickly to great depths.

North of the airport lies a low ridge. A bit more than two miles long, scarcely a half mile across at its widest, and at its highest only 250 feet above sea level, it is unimposing. Tropical forest subdues its surface relief. It too is limestone, a karst topography, deposited as coral reefs and later exposed a few hundred feet by receding sea levels or uplifted land areas. This type of limestone topography is typically laced with caves, grottos, crevices, and cracks. In 1944, hidden below jungle foliage and underground, Japanese defenders had interconnected these with man-made tunnels and fortifications. Before September 1944, maps that bothered named the ridge Umurbrogol or Umurbrogol Mountain. Maps today identify it as Bloody Nose Ridge.

Today, the island, only slightly different from its appearance in 1944, has retained a remarkable degree of historic integrity -- perhaps more than any of the other battle sites of the Pacific campaign of World War II. Small portions of the former battleground are being used to grow taro, as well as family patches of cassava, sweet potatoes, bananas, papayas, and squash. But most of it remains unused and untouched since the G.I.'s pulled out more than four decades ago.

Bliliou, described as resembling a lobster claw, covers about 4.5 square miles (about 2,900 acres), excluding mangrove swamp (about 1,200 acres). As noted, most of the island is covered by a dense tropical forest which is almost entirely second growth, since the World War II battle destroyed much of the vegetation. A typhoon which hit the island in the 1960's also did some damage to the vegetation.



The village of Klouklubed, at the northern end of Bliliou, is now where nearly all of the people live on the island.

The population of Bliliou has decreased over the past two to three decades. In 1958 there were about 680 residents, in 1973 there were about 655, and in 1980 about 600. The present resident population is about 400. However, there are about 1,600 other individuals living elsewhere who claim Bliliou as their residence. Most residents engage in subsistence farming and fishing.

Although Bliliou is still divided into five traditional villages each headed up by a chief, the lands which these villages encompass are today uninhabited. The existing settlements are confined to the northern tip of the island in the communities of Klouklubed and Imelechol. The school, government offices, a meeting hall, and small grocery stores are all located in Klouklubed. North of Klouklubed is Elochel dock, used by the interisland ferry, the *Peleliu Queen*, and fishing boats.

During World War II, when the entire island was being fortified by the Japanese, all residents were evacuated and moved to Babeldaob or Oreor for resettlement. Following the war the Bliliouans returned, resettling in the north rather than back on the old village sites. These sites had either been destroyed or pre-empted for other uses by the U. S. military. Even though the U. S. military left long ago, these parts of the island remain in open space; existing land uses consist of agriculture, mostly taro, an airport runway, a water catchment, cemeteries (mainly war dead), World War II memorials and bai, stylized structures traditionally used by Palauan chiefs as meeting places. For the most part, Bliliouans allow common use of these open lands. Land records for Bliliou, however, show that the southern and central parts of the island (see Figure 4) have been divided into homesteads by various clans. These homesteads, filed more than two decades ago, were settlements for World War II land claims.

World War II and the 1944 battle are more than just memories for most residents of Bliliou. There are many tangible reminders of that time. Remnants of that period are not confined to just the battlefield. Today, in the kitchens of many Bliliouan homes there are U. S. military cooking pots, stainless steel mess trays, and flatware -- all still in use. The Marston mat, originally put down by the U. S. Navy Seabees as runway surface, is now used to make benches, fences, and pigpens. Airplane propellers, bomb casings, and steel helmets are placed in front yards for decorative purposes. Propeller blades are also used as grave markers. The U. S. cemetery, even though no longer containing the graves of

marines and soldiers, has been well maintained by the island residents.

In 1984, the USS PELELIU, a large, amphibious assault ship, visited the island, bringing several American veterans of the World War II battle. The three-day visit was marked with ceremonies commemorating the battle, including the dedication of a monument to the First Marine Division and tours of the battle sites. Nearly all of the residents of Bliliou attended and the governor indicated that he hoped the visit would bring other tourists to the island to visit its World War II historic sites.

Members of Japanese World War II veteran groups have visited Bliliou several times since the war's end, usually for the purpose of holding memorial services for dead comrades or to visit old battle sites. Also, Japanese who lost family members during the battle come to pay their respect and sometimes to try to recover the remains of the lost relative.



This World War II vintage propeller is displayed in the front yard of a home in Kloukubed.

Figure 4. Land Tenure

Consultation and Coordination

During the week of September 29 - October 3, 1986, when the NPS study team visited Bliliou to field check the World War II sites and features, several meetings were held with island residents. These meetings had several purposes: one was to acquaint Bliliouans with the concept of a historical park, another was to explore a range of options for administering such a park, and also to hear directly from the residents which of the World War II sites on Bliliou they felt to be the most important and thereby considered worthy of being included within a historical park.

Each of the meetings was attended by a distinct and important segment of the residents of Bliliou. At each meeting Mr. Moses Sam, historic preservation officer for the Republic of Palau, acted as both moderator and facilitator. Also attending each of the meetings was Mr. Kulas Sngebau, chairman of the historic preservation committee for Bliliou.

The first meeting consisted of the chiefs, elders, and young men of Bliliou. Eighteen to 20 individuals attended. The next meeting was held for the women's club of Bliliou, the Tatiron. At this meeting 38 individuals were in attendance. Both of these meetings were held to introduce the National Park Service team members to the community, to familiarize the attendees with the purpose of the World War II additional sites study requested by Congress, to briefly discuss a possible range of options for the scope and extent of a historical park on Bliliou and who conceivably could be the administering agency, and lastly, to invite the attendees and residents of Bliliou to participate with questions, concerns, comments, and general reactions to the historical park study.



Palauan historic preservation officials, Moses Sam and Kulas Sngeban, discuss the idea of a historical park on Bliliou at the site of the Japanese memorial near Scarlet Beach.

The next meeting was a working session with the chairman and members of Bliliou historic preservation committee. The purpose of this meeting was to ascertain the committee's priorities regarding the significance of the World War II sites and features found on the island. The committee agreed with the National Park Service suggestion to consider only those sites and features which were directly related to the actual battle for Bliliou. From the NPS list of more than 150, 15 sites or features, both American and Japanese, were identified and prioritized by the committee as worthy of protection and inclusion within a historical park.

The final meeting was held with the six members of the Bliliou council of chiefs, including the high chief, or Obak, of Bliliou. The purpose of this meeting was to obtain the endorsement of the traditional chiefs for the concept of a historical park on Bliliou whose area would encompass the fifteen sites or features previously selected by the historic preservation committee. The council of chiefs, after discussion, provided the study team with that endorsement.

World War II Relics on Bliliou

In the Pacific Campaign of World War II, Bliliou was one of many islands battles stretching from the Solomons to Okinawa. Yet, Bliliou was more than just another battle. If, on Bliliou, the battle for Bloody Nose Ridge had any distinct significance, perhaps it was the abrupt awareness both to the United States and Japan of how tenacious and tough was their foe. Likely only a very few of Japan's military leaders yet fully sensed the national resolve of the U. S. to push the war all the way to Tokyo. Certainly the U. S. was just beginning to fully comprehend the Japanese Code of Bushido that demanded each soldier, sailor, and marine defend every inch of every island to the death.

U. S. tacticians anticipated Bliliou as a quick, fierce battle to be completed in a few days. The Japanese figured to exact such a heavy toll from their hidden, impregnable defenses that the U. S. would have to withdraw those who survived. With the fall of Bliliou, after four months and 12,500 deaths, both views were wrong. Bliliou, like Tarawa, and other island battles foretold a fierce, bloody campaign to Japan via the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Conceivably, the high casualty rates of these bitter island battles predicted eventual use of an atomic bomb by the U. S. to hasten the war's end. At Bloody Nose Ridge and nearby, there remains in place the greatest array of remnants and sites of one of these Pacific battles. The sites are easily accessible from Kloukblubed village -- a few hours by boat or minutes by aircraft from Oreor.

The 1944 U. S. invasion and battle for Bliliou is described in an Appendix to this report. Basically, on Bliliou, the Japanese defenders had changed their tactics of defending the beaches to a more sophisticated defense. The new concept departed from the tactics employed earlier in the Pacific war which called for attempting to annihilate the invaders on the beach. At Bliliou, tactics called for the preparation of a main line of resistance far enough from the beach to minimize the effects of the pre-invasion bombardment, the organizing of a defense in depth designed to wear down the attacking forces, and the maintaining of sufficient reserves to mount counterattacks at the appropriate times. Bliliou's rugged terrain, principally the high ground of the Umurbrogol, pocketed with fortified caves and crevices, was well-suited to the employment of these new tactics.

Bliliou was different in other respects too; it was as tough and tragic as any of the other Pacific island battles, maybe more so. Of the 19 Medals of Honor won by members of the

First Marine Division for all actions in the Pacific (Guadalcanal, New Britain, Bliliou, and Okinawa), eight were awarded on Bliliou. The 1st Marines (regiment) in eight days of fighting sustained 1,672 casualties, amounting to more than a 60 percent casualty rate. These were the most severe losses suffered by any Marine unit in the Pacific war. And, of course, these losses were much less than those suffered by the Japanese defenders.



The Umurbrogol in 1944. Marines, supported by Sherman tanks, move up Horseshoe Basin along the pond. Five Brothers is on the left, Walt Ridge to the right, and Hill 140 in the center background.



The first few days of continuous assault on fortified Japanese positions resulted in enormously high casualties among Marines of the 1st Regiment.



Unexploded World War II ordnance can still be seen on Bliliou -- this artillery shell was found near the northern end of White Beach.



Found of Bliliou -- a First Marine Division veteran had inscribed on his rifle butt, "South Pacific, 1944, Guadalcanal."



This painting, by the famous World War II artist and correspondent, Tom Lea, shows the last rites being administered by a chaplain to one of the more than 1,000 U.S. Marines who died on Bliliou. In his book, *Peleliu Landing*, Lea wrote the following moving account of the scene: "The padre towered over the crouching figures like a plaster saint with canteens and a Bible. Amid the frenzy, the wreckage and snipers' bullets, he looked very lonely, very close to God as he

intoned his prayers over the shattered men."

Department of Defense.

Bliliou was perhaps important in another respect: it was one of the very first areas where segregation in the U. S. military broke down. On Bliliou, Blacks were fully accepted and played an important role in combat situations.

Table B and Figures 5 to 10 show all the sites and features remaining from the fighting and subsequent U. S. occupation of Bliliou that were inventoried and described for this study. Compiled by the NPS study team, they are based primarily on two sources, *Peleliu: The Battle and Peleliu Today*, by D. Colt Denfeld and *Peleliu, Its Terrain and Defense*, prepared by the Photographic Intelligence Unit of First Marine Division. The sites described in these reports were field checked in September and October 1986.

The Denfeld study was prepared in 1982 for the Historic Preservation Office, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It is in two parts: the first, a detailed historical narrative of the capture of Bliliou; and the second, the results of a field survey of World War II sites and features on Bliliou. Only a preliminary draft of this study was located, despite considerable efforts to secure a final version. The preliminary draft did not contain maps or illustrations.

The Denfeld field survey of Bliliou, began in August 1981 and extending over a 35-day period, describes and generally locates existing World War II sites (features, structures, and objects), Japanese and American, on the island. The survey is comprehensive and forms nearly all of the resource base for this study. It was also utilized by the National Park Service during the preparation of the earlier landmark theme study.

The Marine Corps report, prepared immediately after the battle, was developed from captured Japanese maps, POW interrogation reports, the First Marine Division's Special Action Report, and from on-the-ground reconnaissance. The report contains sketch maps which show the number and location of the various Japanese weapons and installations located during the ground reconnaissance.



Site 19d. Despite being overgrown with tropical vegetation, this round four-gun Japanese blockhouse located in the vicinity of Scarlet Beach remains in excellent condition.



A camouflaged pillbox is located on the promontory at the northern end of White Beach and is one of several defensive positions sited here by the Japanese to provide enfilade fire across the invasion beach. It has been identified as site 27d.

This photo was taken near the Japanese airfield. Most of the tanks involved in the Japanese counterattack of the late



afternoon of D-day were stopped by the heavier firepower of the Sherman, as well as by bazookas and grenade launchers.



Site number 23d, a Japanese light tank has probably not been moved from the spot where it was originally disabled by anti-tank fire that repulsed the Japanese counterattack of D-day.



Aerial bombing, artillery fire, and shelling by ships offshore virtually destroyed the vegetation on Bloody Nose Ridge and exposed its steep, fissured, razor-sharp topography.



This well-known Tom Lea painting depicts what came to be known on Bililou as the "thousand yard stare." After weeks of prolonged and intense fighting against a tenacious and well dug-in enemy on Bloody Nose Ridge, the bone weary Marines took on the look.

Department of Defense



Marines advancing on the Japanese airfield. The air headquarters building is in the background, its roof showing the damage done to it by aerial and naval bombardment.



The air headquarters building today. On the first floor of the substantial two-story concrete structure the walls are nearly two feet thick. Vegetation has grown up in and around the building. It has been identified as site 61d.



National Park Service and Palauan officials consult maps to field check locations of World War II sites and features on Bliliou.



The U. S. LVT(A)4, site 86d, was an armored version of the standard troop and/or cargo carrying amphibious vehicle. The mounted short-barreled gun was taken from the M8 self-propelled howitzer.



This LVT, site 85d, was equipped with additional armor and a turret and 37 mm gun from a light tank



This Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun, site 90d, is at its original location in a man-made cave and remains in good condition.

This document also contains the general location of the hundreds of caves occupied by the Japanese defenders.

Based on the sites identified in the two above described reports, the NPS study team prepared a preliminary comprehensive listing. Containing a brief description, the general location, and a relative significance of each site, the list was utilized to ground check sites during the September-October 1986 visit to Bliliou. During that visit, an additional historical object of significance was located and identified: a U. S. TBM or TBF "Avenger" torpedo-bomber.

[Table B. Remaining Sites and Features - 1944 Invasion and Capture of Bliliou](#)

These sites have been prioritized by the National Park Service. This prioritization was based primarily on the sites' particular importance to the actual battle which took place on Bliliou from September 15 to November 27, 1944. The first six sites -- Five Sisters, China Wall, Horseshoe Basin, Wildcat Bowl, Five Brothers, and Walt Ridge -- are all topographic features, limestone ridges or ravines, named by the U. S. marines and soldiers who fought here and got to know each one intimately (see Figure 11). Collectively, they

were known then as the Umurbrogol Pocket, now, more commonly, as Bloody Nose Ridge. This area was the focal point of the fighting on Bliliou; where the Japanese resistance was fiercest and where there is still considerable physical evidence of the battle, including about 100 identified individual cave sites, most of which are still sealed, that were occupied by the defending Japanese troops. The sealed caves were not explored during the NPS field survey and remain largely unknown entities.



The 7th Marines, in the early morning hours of September 15, 1944, landed on Orange Beach 3.



The site of Orange Beach 3 at low tide, as it looks today.



After crashing in the mangrove forest of Bliliou, this TBF or TBM "Avenger" torpedo-bomber was forgotten until located by Palauan historic preservation officials in 1986. It is listed as site 159.



One of the few Japanese built caves on Bliliou open and accessible. Local residents refer to it as the "last command post" and it has been identified as site 164.

The next ten or so sites listed include White Beach and Orange Beach. It was here, on portions of these two invasion beaches, that the U. S. Marines, when landing, encountered the strongest resistance and took the heaviest casualties; it is also where, mostly along White Beach, there are still many Japanese pill boxes and casemates in existence; moreover, the scene along both these beaches is relatively unchanged from its appearance in 1944. The remaining high priority sites consist mostly of pieces of large military equipment, both American and Japanese, which played a direct role in the 1944 battle for Bliliou.

World War II historic sites on Bliliou have also been prioritized by the Bliliou historic preservation committee. The committee too felt that Bloody Nose Ridge and White Beach were important historic resources and afforded these two areas their highest priority. In addition, the committee felt that the large Japanese cave southwest of Bloody Nose Ridge

(Site 164) which is open and accessible was an important historic site. Other sites judged to be important by the committee include Scarlet Beach, Orange Beach, the American Cemetery, the U. S. Navy "Avenger" torpedo bomber and the two U. S. amphibious tractors located northwest of the airport runway.

The list also contains sites on Bliliou which were not directly related to the World War II battle. Many of these were constructed by the U. S. military long after the fighting had ceased. They include the remains of quonset huts, concrete building pads, and water tanks. Others, consisting of air raid shelters, fuel storage bunkers, and barracks, were built by the Japanese, but are located where no actual fighting took place or within the confines of present day Kloulklubed village. These sites (objects, structures, ruins, or features) were not given a priority in terms of their historic significance and their need for additional protection.

[Figure 5. Remaining sites and features, 1944 Invasion & Capture of Bliliou](#)

[Figure 6. Detail 1. Scarlet Beach](#)

[Figure 7. Detail 2. Purple Beach](#)

[Figure 8. Detail 3. Amber Beach](#)

[Figure 9. Detail 4. Amber Beach & Bloody Nose Ridge](#)

[Figure 10. Detail 5. White and Orange Beaches](#)

[Figure 11. Bloody Nose Ridge](#)

Natural Resources on Bliliou

Bliliou's soils were basically formed from the residue of coral limestone. Consequently, they are shallow, porous, and well-drained and poorly suited to most types of crop production. In the uplands of Bliliou the coral limestone is exposed in rock outcrops and characterized by vertical cliffs rising up to 100 feet above the lagoon. In the intertidal zone next to the shoreline, soils have formed in decomposing mangrove roots and litter over a coral sand and gravel base. The habitat here is diverse and includes a rich variety of plants and animals.

Although the 1944 battle left substantial portions of Bliliou's tropical forest portions nearly bare, the U. S. subsequently made no soil stabilization effort by spreading seeds of erosion resistant alien plants. And so, regrowth has been almost entirely native plants now forming a 45-year-old secondary native forest. The mangrove areas of Bliliou were mostly untouched by the battle; consequently, this swamp is unimpaired.

In June 1987, the U. S. Forest Service published, "*Vegetation Survey of the Republic of Palau*." The survey was based on photography taken in 1976 and field checked for accuracy in 1985. For mapping purposes, the islands of Palau were divided into four major land classes: forest, secondary vegetation, agroforest, and nonforest. Nearly all of Bliliou is covered in forest and consists of four of the eight types identified by the U. S. Forest Service for Palau: limestone forest, mangrove forest, *Casuarina* forest, and swamp forest.

The limestone forest is the dominant vegetation type found on Bliliou. Native limestone forest once covered nearly all of the island. The less disturbed limestone forest now occurs in the uplands of northern Bliliou. On other parts of the island, the growth is mostly secondary. The limestone forest habitat supports both scrubby and tall trees, sometimes growing out of bare rock. Much of the forest has a secondary vegetation understory. The

humus from decaying leaves and other debris provide the necessary nutrients. Species commonly found in the limestone forest include *Intsia bijuga*, *Psychotria* spp., and *Clerodendrum inerme*.

The mangrove forests on Bliliou are mostly composed of medium-sized trees, smaller and less dense than those found on the large island of Babeldaob. Generally, *Sonneratia alba* and *Rhizophora mucronata* dominate on the seaward side of the forest. On the landward side, the species mix may include *Lumnitzera litorea* and *Xylocarpus granatum*. As in other areas, the mangrove forests here serve as a natural filtering and nutrient buffering system between the island and the waters of the lagoon, settling silt and providing a steady release of nutrients into the lagoon. Mangrove forest also provides important habitat for birds and fruit bats and serve as fish spawning grounds.

Along the western and eastern coast of Bliliou, dense stands of *Casuarina litorea* trees are found. These areas are not well-developed forest communities, however, and are usually a component of other secondary vegetation types or atoll forest. In the interior of the island in the vicinity of the landing strip, the secondary vegetation type is mostly *Hibiscus*.

A remnant swamp forest occurs on Bliliou on the east side just inland of the mangrove forest. Species common to this wet area include *Barringtonia racemosa* and *Terminalia catappa*.

Altogether the four types of areas vegetated with live trees -- limestone forest, mangrove forest, *Casuarina* forest, and swamp forest -- account for about 85 percent of the island of Bliliou. The remaining 15 percent consists of secondary vegetation, marshlands, developed areas, croplands, and water bodies.

The secondary vegetation on Bliliou consists of areas of fast-growing small trees, shrubs, and vines growing in recently disturbed areas. These areas are usually former planted areas now lying fallow. The most common secondary vegetation species found on Bliliou are *Macaranga carolinensis* and the native limestone species, *Timonius timon*.

The marshes on Bliliou are both freshwater and saline. The saltwater marshes are dominated by herbaceous vegetation and the freshwater areas by grasses, sedges, and herbs. Some of the freshwater marshes are being cultivated for taro.

[Table C. Plant Communities of Bliliou.](#)

The developed areas consists primarily of buildings and roads which make up the village of Kloulklubed, the landing strip and the adjacent reservoir. Crop lands are mostly found in the north next to the village and sometimes contain small structures. The water areas consist of both freshwater and saline pools scattered throughout the island.

Figure 12 shows the patterns of vegetation and land use on Bliliou based on the Forest Service survey. During the National Park Service survey of World War II sites in 1986, nearly all of the island was covered. Observations made at that time relative to vegetation and land use made it appear that, with minor exceptions, the Forest Service survey is still valid and essentially correct. The only changes noted by the Park Service are those showing additional areas which appeared at that time to be under cultivation.

[Figure 12. Land Use and Vegetation](#)

Thirty-nine species of native birds have been recorded on Bliliou (Engbring, 1988). Of these, 30 are land or wetland species and 9 are seabirds. There are also several migrant species there for part of the year. Seven of the land species are endemic to Palau. A single

species, the Micronesian Megapode, has been listed as endangered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Two of the endangered species are endemics. The Gray Duck and the Common Moorhen, both found on Bliliou, are thought to be the rarest birds in Palau. As shown on Table D, the great majority of the resident bird species are either "common" or "abundant" and nearly all of the migrants are "common." If native bird life is an indication of the integrity of native ecosystems, Bliliou's are superb. Overall, Palauan ecosystems are well represented on Bliliou.

[Table D. Birds of Bliliou](#)

Bliliou National Historic Landmark

The national significance of the World War II battle for the island of Bliliou is documented in the "significance" section of the nomination form for the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark and is included as an Appendix to this report. The National Park System Advisory Board, after consideration, approved and recommended landmark status. On February 4, 1985, the Secretary of the Interior officially designated the Bliliou site as a national historic landmark. The designation attests not only to the site's significance, but also to its integrity. The landmark plaque has been mounted and is now displayed in a prominent place in the village of Kloulklubed.

The entire island of Bliliou was included in the recommendation for nomination as a national historic landmark, except for the area encompassed by the two villages, Kloulklubed and Imelechol, at the northern end of the island. The nomination also stated that the remnants of post-battle American installations, such as concrete slabs, quonset huts, etc., were not considered to be historically significant. No specific landmark boundary was established at the time of nomination because of the lack of National Park Service knowledge then of land tenure and ownership patterns on Bliliou.

Due to landmark designation, it is now important that specific landmark boundaries be defined in order to provide a clear delineation of the amount of land involved. It is recommended that exact national historic landmark boundaries now be drawn to include those lands shown on Figure 13. These boundaries were drawn so as to include only those portions of Bliliou which contain sites that are directly related to the actual World War II battle. The total area recommended to be included within the national historic landmark boundaries takes in about 2,800 acres. A little more than 1,300 acres is land, the rest is about two-thirds offshore waters and one-third mangrove swamp.

Historical Park - Area Options

The following areas all contain sites and features important to the 1944 battle for Bliliou and have been judged by the NPS study team and the Bliliou historic preservation committee to be worthy of being included within a historical park. Both the team and the committee agreed that the overall objective of such a park was to preserve these sites and features. Establishment of a historical park to manage, protect, interpret, and make these sites accessible to visitors is regarded as the logical and most appropriate way to achieve this objective.

Boundaries for the historical park could be configured in three ways, depending on the extent of the area to be included within.

[Figure 13. Recommended National Historic Landmark Boundary](#)

These three areas collectively contain the remaining topographic -- ridges, ravines, and beaches -- and man-made -- caves, directly associated with the 1944 battle for Bliliou. Except for the small area at the northern end of the island containing the Japanese 1000-man cave, the suggested historical park boundaries coincide with those boundaries recommended for the national historic landmark. The cave, although important, is but a single site separated from the other sites and features by a sizeable distance, thereby making park management difficult. Landmark designation was judged to be adequate protection to that sites' historic value.

Although changed since the battle -- the jagged limestone ridges then exposed by heavy guns, bombs, and napalm are now covered by second?growth tropical vegetation -- these areas even today still evoke a strong feeling of the terrible events concrete structures, and military equipment -- features of historic significance, all which took place there during the months of September, October, and November 1944. As noted, a remarkable degree of site integrity remains. Because of this site integrity, Bliliou offers perhaps the best opportunity to interpret for visitors a World War II Pacific island battle.

Suggested boundaries have been delineated to include nearly all of the remaining sites and features important to the battle. Some of the large pieces of military equipment have been moved for display or other purposes and their present location should not be considered permanent. All other sites, features, structures, and objects should be protected and preserved on-site.

Some of the second growth tropical vegetation will require cutting back at select sites to allow visitors to view and gain access to important historic sites and features. However, there should be no attempt to recreate the historic scene as it appeared during the 1944 battle. To attempt this would mean stripping away extensive amounts of the existing vegetation to expose the craggy limestone ridges of the Umurbrogol Pocket. This would be irresponsible park management -- literally recreating conditions that would lead to erosion and other man?made landscape scarring.



Displayed prominently in the village of Kloukubed is the plaque for the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark. It reads: "This site possesses national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America."

Three areas are discussed in terms of their significance to the park's historic theme, the presence (or lack) of existing non?park land uses, and visitor accessibility. Each is described in the order of their importance.

Area 1: Encompasses a total of about 1,370 acres, 850 acres of land, 120 acres of mangrove swamp and 400 acres of offshore waters. Contains all of Bloody Nose Ridge. The caves found along Bloody Nose Ridge, some natural and some phosphate mined, were improved and fortified by the Japanese defenders. More than 100 caves or cave entrances were located here by U. S. Marine intelligence; about half of these were sealed or destroyed. It was here at Bloody Nose Ridge where the U. S. marines and infantry encountered the strongest resistance from the Japanese defenders and where some of the most prolonged fighting of the entire Central Pacific drive took place. This long, precipitous ridge, Bliliou's most prominent topographic feature, is considered to be the single most important part of any historical park proposal. The area contains numerous topographic features, each of which played a distinct role in the 41-day battle.

Six of the ridge's topographic features -- Five Sisters, China Wall, Horseshoe Basin,

Wildcat Bowl, Five Brothers, and Walt Ridge -- were afforded the highest priority for preservation by the NPS study team. The historic preservation committee also gave the entire Bloody Nose Ridge area their highest priority.

This area also contains the two most important invasion beaches, White and Orange. White Beach was where the 1st Marines (Regiment) engaged in the toughest fighting as they tried to get ashore -- first underwater obstacles, then mutually defended, heavily fortified concrete pillboxes set in along the coral ridge manned by determined Japanese defenders. Also contains the greatest extent, variety and number of sites, features, and objects related to the park's historical theme. Moreover, competing land uses are non-existent, other than small agricultural plots, mostly taro. The area also contains a road running along the western side of Bloody Nose Ridge providing easy access for park visitors from the village of Kloulklubed. This area is considered to be integral to any historical park on Bliliou -- the minimum area required in order to have a viable park. Without this area in its entirety, the criterion of suitability could not be met. Table E lists those sites and features remaining from the World War II battle for Bliliou which are located within Area 1.

[Table E. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary \(Area 1\)](#)

Area 2: Encompasses a total of about 745 acres, 240 acres of land, 30 acres of mangrove swamp, and 475 acres of offshore waters. Adding this area to the park would mean including Scarlet Beach, portions of which are referred to as Bloody Beach by the residents, which the historic preservation committee judged to be important. This area contains several features, mostly Japanese defensive positions, the most important being a well-preserved round blockhouse, the only one of its kind on Bliliou. Table F lists those sites and features remaining from the World War II battle for Bliliou which are located within Area 2.

[Table F. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary \(Unit 2\)](#)

Area 3: Encompasses a total of 660 acres, 220 acres of land, 300 acres of mangrove forest, and 140 acres of offshore waters. Contains Purple Beach, which was identified as a beachhead, but no actual landings by the U. S. Marines took place here. Historic sites within this area are also mostly Japanese defensive positions. There are also several structures, all associated with the Japanese radio direction-finding facilities, located at Lademisang. Two of these structures are presently being utilized, one of them as a place of residence.

[Table G. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary \(Unit 3\)](#)



Bloody Nose Ridge monument, site 84d, was erected by the 323rd Regiment of the U.S. Army's 81st Infantry Division and dedicated to Americans who died during the battle for the island.

The establishment of a historical park on Bliliou encompassing all of the above described areas would have minimum impact on existing land uses. None of the resident population would be affected, except for the elderly chief who resides alone in Lademisang (Site

100d). As noted, all other island residents currently live on the northern end of the island in the villages of Kloulkubed and Imelechol. Also, most of the lands being proposed for a historical park consist of limestone ridges and ravines or coral and sand beaches ?? none of these areas being suitable for agricultural, commercial, or residential purposes. However, those areas now in use for agricultural purposes, mostly the growing of taro, may not necessarily be incompatible with an historical park.

Table H. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located Outside of Suggested Historical Park Boundary

Management Plan - Bliliou Historical Park

Park Purpose: To protect, preserve, and interpret the significant historic objects, sites, and features, as well as historic values, associated with the park.

Park Manager: Shall act to perpetuate unimpaired the cultural resources of the park; to prevent adverse effects on these resources from non-park development, from visitor use, or resource management activities; and to prevent vandalism or unauthorized excavation, collection, or appropriation of cultural resources. Shall provide for visitor enjoyment, appreciation, and understanding of park resources and values -- but not at the expense or impairment of those resources and values -- and for visitor protection and safety.

Figure 14. Historical Park Area Options



The American military cemetery, site 17d, contains two stone obelisks at each end, with bronze plaques dedicated to American war dead.

Park Management Objectives:

1. Preserve, protect, and manage the important historic resources of the park to ensure the continuation of the setting with sufficient historic integrity to interpret for visitors the World War II battle for Bliliou.
2. Provide park visitors with adequate facilities: (a) to interpret the historic resources; (b) for safety and comfort; and (c) for access to important sites, features, and viewpoints.
3. Develop a park interpretive program to foster an understanding of the reasons for the World War II battle for Bliliou, both from the American and Japanese standpoints. Develop a companion interpretive program to promote an understanding of the effect which the World War II battle for Bliliou had on Palauans, in particular on the residents of Bliliou.
4. Develop and present a park interpretive program in a historically accurate, objective, and unbiased manner.
5. Cooperate and coordinate with the U. S. National Park Service in providing training and

professional and technical assistance for park planning and operation.

6. Develop and maintain contacts with appropriate Japanese interests and/or organizations who may be interested in some type of memorialization of their war dead on the island of Bliliou.

7. Maintain a close relationship and spirit of cooperation with the Obak of Bliliou and the council of chiefs.

8. Coordinate and consult with the chairman of the historic preservation committee for Bliliou.

9. Establish and maintain contact with the Office of Visitors Authority on Oreor.

Development

Access to the island of Bliliou and the historical park area from Oreor is either via the interisland ferry boat or by light airplane. Both these services are available on a regular basis. However, very few people come to Bliliou by air. Nearly all of the residents and most visitors utilize the boat. The trip to and from Oreor takes less than one hour and is an extremely enjoyable boat ride through the spectacularly scenic Rock Islands. The boat dock is located at the northern end of Kloulklubed village; aircraft set down on the old World War II landing strip at the southern end of the island.

Bliliou's main road runs along the west side of the island from the villages in the north down to the landing strip and beyond. Numerous secondary roads lace the southern portion of the island. There are no hotels on Bliliou; however, arrangements for overnight lodging and meals can be made at a few of the homes in the village of Kloulklubed.

It is suggested that visitor use facilities for an historical park be developed primarily at the village and secondarily near the landing strip. The Kloulklubed village site is where visitor orientation, interpretation, and information should be provided. It should also be the site for park administration and maintenance. Facilities needed here consist of a visitor information/park headquarters building, restrooms, and a small museum containing exhibits. The World War II Japanese radio station (114d) located in the village should be considered for adaptive use as a museum or headquarters building. Development at the landing strip site, located at the southern end, should consist of a small shelter containing exhibits and restrooms. Facilities are needed to house the park maintenance operation -- either an existing structure (if available and suitable) would have to be found or a new one constructed.

No road or trail construction is needed. The main road from the village to the suggested historical park is suitable as a park road in its present condition. The existing secondary roads within the proposed park near the southern end of Bloody Nose Ridge and in the vicinity of the landing strip should be maintained in their present condition and not improved. Those roads that presently serve no useful park purpose should be abandoned.

Wayside exhibits should be constructed at the southern base of Bloody Nose Ridge (Five Sisters) where the existing stairway leads up to the monument at the top. Waysides are needed nearby at the entrance to Horseshoe Basin and at the northern end of White Beach. These waysides would interpret particular aspects of the battle. Wayside exhibits should also be set up next to some of the more important pieces of military equipment and structures, such as the Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun (90d), the American "Avenger" torpedo-bomber (159), the Japanese round blockhouse (19d), and the Japanese headquarters building (61d). Access to the torpedo-bomber should be by guide only. An

elevated walkway to the wreck could be constructed over the mangrove swamp with a small wayside at the terminus. Other large pieces of military equipment (e.g., 86d, 87d, and 88d) have likely been moved since the battle, some probably for display purposes, and are not considered to be on-site. These can be interpreted, either singly or as a group, with waysides, once an appropriate location is determined.

No overnight camping facilities should be developed within the historical park. Development within the park would be for day-use only. It is assumed that any overnight lodging and meals needed to accommodate park visitors would be provided by the nearby villages and private enterprise.

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preliminary D R A F T -- 1/91

THE ROCK ISLANDS OF PALAU

To the north and directly adjacent to Bliliou lie a spectacular interplay of reefs, lagoon, and tiny islands stretching the entire way to Oreor. Among a small cult of divers and marine biologists, this place is widely celebrated as the "Rock Islands" -- one of the scenic and biologic gems of this planet.

Description

The Reefs. At the southern end of the lagoon, in sight of Bliliou and lying northwest is an extraordinary barrier reef, a part of that which surrounds much of the archipelago. At most "walls" along the outside edge of the barrier reef, the coral formations' vertical base may begin only a few feet below the surface and drop, sometimes vertically, to depths of more than a thousand feet. Names like the "Blue Corner," "Ngemelis," the "Blue Hole," and "Peleliu Wall" describe world class dive sites. Here, giant sea fans and soft coral grow out from the walls in hues of yellow, orange, red, and pink, and tunnels, both horizontal and vertical, intersect their faces. A phenomenal variety of fish swim along the walls, including jacks, tuna, snappers, parrotfish, groupers, barracuda, sharks, rays, and sea turtles.

At Ngemelis "The Wall" begins just at the surface and plunges vertically a straight 1,000 feet and ultimately to depths of 18,000 feet. Currents brush laterally along this outer barrier, eroding the wall face with scallops and caves but mostly constantly nourishing a vertical paradise of soft corals and schools of reef fishes. The great barrier reef surrounds a good deal of the islands north of Bliliou -- but "The Wall" in sight of Bloody Nose Ridge is one of the most spectacular and popular.

On the lagoon or inner side of Ngemelis, the reef extends broadly at tidewater as a level back reef extensively covered with sand. At low tide miles of pristine beaches lie exposed.



"The Wall," on the outer edge of Palau's great barrier reef north of Bliliou is regarded to be one of the premier dive spots of the world.

The Islands. From Ngemelis directly north across lagoon waters is a compact maze of tiny islands. These are the Ngerukuid islands. Ngerukuid translates to seventy. Aerial views of the Seventy Islands, widely displayed on book covers, posters, and magazine illustrations than any other feature of this country, are symbolic of Palau.

Several things contribute to the beauty of this island group: brilliant, transparent colors of the sky and water; the clarity of the lagoon waters; dazzling white sand beaches; and the quantity and form of the small islands.

The Rock Islands are limestone of coral origin. Obviously, they are remnants of a earlier array of barrier and patch reefs similar to the reefs of today at Palau -- except the sea level then was some 250 to 300 feet higher. The sea level has been fairly constant for some time, so the easily dissolved limestone at all the Rock Islands are severely undercut at their waterline. From water level, many appear as great mushrooms. At many places, it is very difficult or impossible to get ashore to the islands. Most are uninhabited, and they are fine biologic remnants with native limestone forests and a complete array of native bird life. Hawksbill and green sea turtles haul in on the scattered sand beaches to nest. Ulong Island, where Captain Henry Wilson's ship, the *Antelope*, went aground in 1700, is the site of many ancient rock paintings used to record important events. Yet scenic beauty is the dominating character of these Rock Islands. They are

unique and outstanding.

The porous, fractured, eroded nature of these islands clearly illustrates the kind of landscape the Japanese defenders used to fortify and barricade at Bloody Nose Ridge, for that place too is geologically like the Rock Islands.

North and east of Seventy Islands and between them and the capital, Oreor, are two prominent island groups, Mecherchar (Eil Malk) and Ngerukdabel (Urukthapel). Each of these has a much larger main island, though still entirely of karst topography limestone.

Soils. The richness of the Rock Islands' vegetation disguises the infertility of the soil. The substrate here consist of highly fissured, eroded, and loose limestone rock. No real soil layer has developed. The vegetation grows out of the coral limestone which is covered by a thin layer of leaves and humus. The plants live largely off one another, each recycling the other with little or no residue.

Vegetation. The Rock Islands are not exemplary as the finest of Palau's forests; these they lie on the largest island, Babeldaob, north of Oreor. The vegetation of the Rock Islands, because of its uniqueness, has been characterized as distinct subtype of the limestone forest type. The forest found growing on the steep, coralline limestone islands is diverse in species composition, but fairly homogeneous throughout the Rock Islands and has produced what appears to be a stable ecosystem. Some variety does exist from island to island, particularly the forests on the two largest islands of Eil Malk and Urukthapel. On these two islands are a few strands of enormous old trees found mainly in low areas where they have been sheltered from typhoons. There are small scattered areas of mangrove, coconut palm and swamp forest here too. Most of the mangrove and swamp forest are found adjacent or near the marine lakes. The coconut palm, planted previously for commercial purposes, is found on a few islands as remnants.

Some of the more common forest species of the Rock Islands include the endemic palms *Gulubia palauensis* and *Ptychosperma palauensis*, and the forest trees *Semecarpus venenosus*, *Intsia bijuga*, *Psychotria* spp., *Premna obtusifolia*, *Cordia* spp., *Clerodendrum inerme*, and *Bikkia palauensis*. *Pandanus* spp. and *Dracaena multiflora* are also common in the understory. *Semecarpus*, called tonget by Palauans, is to be avoided: it produces an acutely irritating oil which causes an itchy skin rash and blisters if the tree is touched.

All the plant species listed for Bliliou on Table C are also found throughout the Rock Islands, plus the two endemic palms, *Gulubia palauensis* and *Ptychosperma palauensis*.



The unique limestone forests of the Rock Islands are densely vegetated despite the lack of a humus layer. This native forest, on steep, craggy, limestone islands, remains in a largely pristine condition.

Palau's two endemic palms are threatened by the greater sulfur-crested cockatoo, first introduced to the Rock Islands in the 1940's. The cockatoo feeds on the heart of the two palms causing the trees to die. Large strands of these palms have already been destroyed.

The Lagoon. Palau's lagoon ranges in depth from just a few feet to about 130 feet. The waters here are clear and often calm to a glass-like stillness. Outside the reef, depths drop quickly to more than a thousand feet along sheer vertical walls and finally to great depths (the Palau Trench on the east reaches 27,000 feet; the ocean floor on the Philippine Sea side is 18,000 to 20,000 feet).

The lagoon waters are characterized by an exceptional diversity of marine life. Marine biologists have collected more than a dozen new species of fish and one new genus along Palau's reefs. The total number

of fish species in these waters is believed to be more than 1,000 and there are about 700 different types of coral and anemones. Rare species such as dugongs (sea cows), sea turtles, and giant clams inhabit these waters. Sea snakes, barracudas, manta rays, and sharks are common.



Ngemelis and Iilblan in the foreground, the Ngerukuid group (Seventy Islands) in the middle background, and, from left to right in the far background, Ulong, Ngeruangel, and the western end of the large island of Ngerukdabel.



Set within the calm waters of the lagoon are the small islands of Bablomekang and Ngesomel with Ioulomekang just behind. Beyond are Ngercheu and Ngemelis and in the far distance at the southern end of the lagoon is Biliou.

[Figure 15. Rock Islands.](#)

[Figure 16. Detail 1. Rock Islands Resources](#)

[Figure 17. Detail 2 of Rock Islands Resources](#)

[Figure 18. Detail 3 of Rock Islands Resources](#)

[Figure 19. Detail 4 of Rock Islands Resources](#)

Marine Lakes. One of the most significant natural resources of the Rock Islands is a series of biologically unique and fascinating marine sulfide lakes. Each of these lakes appears to have its own ecosystem, with its own biota of stingless jellyfish, mollusks, ascidians, and fish, as well as its own physical and chemical characteristics. They are found on the larger islands and number about 35 in all. The large island of Eil Malk contains 15 such lakes. The larger lakes provide habitat for enormous populations of jellyfish. Most of these lakes are ringed by mangrove forest. Their waters are generally very productive. The waters of the most well-known of these lakes, "Jellyfish" lake, apparently undergo no vertical mixing and the 12-acre lake has three distinct food chains. One species of jellyfish found in the lake exhibits an unusual horizontal and vertical swimming behavior. Another, "Spooky" lake, contains a large population of crocodiles and is surrounded by a striking and unusual tropical forest. Nearby "Hotwater" lake has been described as a solar lake because of the heat which accumulates about 50 feet below the surface, causing the temperature there to reach an unbelievable 100°F!



"Jellyfish" lake on the island of Eil Malk contains its own unique biota. The lake is accessible by trail. In the background is the Seventy Islands Preserve.

Birdlife. Birds are the most conspicuous animal in the Rock Islands. Again, due primarily to Palau's proximity to Southeast Asia, the birdlife here is diverse, the richest in all of Micronesia. Nearly all of Palau's resident land birds inhabit the limestone forests of the Rock Islands. The Rock Islands are the preferred habitat of the Palau Ground Dove, the Micronesian Megapode, and the Blue-faced Parrotfinch. The Palau Greater White-eye, an endemic, is found exclusively on the limestone substrates of the Rock Islands.

The Micronesian megapode, which is on the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species List, is a resident of the Rock Islands (see Table I).



A rufous night heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*), called the Melabaob, standing next to a small clump of red mangrove.



The Chesisebangiau, or cardinal honeyeater (*Myzomela rubrata*), perched on a twig of ironwood.

Scenery. Scenic beauty is the dominating character of these Rock Islands. They are unique and an outstanding and beautiful feature of the tropical Pacific that gives the Republic of Palau world renown.

Table I. Birds of the Rock Islands



At low tide great expanses of unspoiled white sand lie exposed along the inner side of Palau's barrier reef.



The Chemoi group lie on the east side of the barrier reef. A deep water channel separates the northern tip of Eil Malk from the island of Enidelchol. The Seventy Islands can be seen in the far distance.

Archeology. Of equal important to their scenic beauty and unique biological populations, many of the

Rock Islands also contain the impressive and well-preserved remains of villages dating between approximately A.D. 1200 and 1450. These villages contain a variety of features that include stone platforms, wells, trails, defensive walls that span the lengths of beach coves, welled-in passes, burials, cooking platforms, caves, exquisitely-painted pictograph panels, and extensive midden scatters containing the rich remains of food shell, fish, and other animal bones, pottery fragments, shell and stone tools. At least 11 such villages are known, including five villages on Ngeruktabel, at least one extensive village in the Ngemelis group, and single villages on Ulong, Ngerchang, Omekang, and possibly Ulsbachel. In addition, at least one, and perhaps three, villages are present on Mecherchar (Eil Malk), and it is possible that villages were present on Ngesebus and other islands immediately north of Bliliou.

These villages have been described by Douglas Osborne (1966, 1979) and Jun Takayama (1979), and in considerable detail by a team of archeologists from the Center for Archaeological Investigations at Southern Illinois University (Masse, Snyder and Gumerman 1984; Masse 1989; Snyder and Butler 1990). These villages are extremely important resources in terms of their research and interpretive values, and in terms of the prominent place that they occupy in Palauan oral history. However, they are fragile resources and have thus far been incompletely studied.

In addition to these prehistoric remains, at least one Rock Island, Ngeruktabel, contains impressive World War II Japanese features. Of particular significance are those clustered around the Japanese lighthouse at Ngeremdiu.

Existing Uses

Recreation. Divers come from all over the world to experience the underwater world of Palau's lagoon and reefs (the lobby of the Hotel Nikko displays the logos of literally hundreds of diving clubs -- American, European, Australian, New Zealand). Most agree that no other place on earth offers such a variety of diving experiences. These range from diving along massive coral walls teeming with an incredible variety of marine life, exploring underground caves and grottos, to viewing sunken World War II Japanese airplanes and ships. It is also possible to dive in some of the larger marine lakes. Underwater visibility ranges from 50 to 80 within the lagoon to up to 200 feet along the outer edge of the reef.



Placid lagoon waters, a white sand beach and rustic accommodations make spots like this ideal for visitors to the Rock Islands.

Presently, there are four commercial diving operators offering daily service to the waters of the Rock Islands. They are all located in the Oreor area at the harbor facilities at Malakal. Most trips consist of a full day, two-dive excursion which includes a picnic lunch on a white sand beach on one of the smaller of the Rock Islands. There are also two rustic resort operations in the Rock Islands. Facilities here consist of cottages with accommodations for food and overnight use. Picnic areas with pavilion and tables are numerous throughout the Rock Islands. These are used heavily by local people (who make extensive recreation use of the islands and lagoon) as well as tourists.

Fishing. Subsistence fishing takes place over much of the Rock Islands area. Although not now rigidly controlled or adhered to, traditional reef and lagoon tenure still exists here. Historically, this meant that the right to fish in the lagoon waters of a particular area was limited to those who resided there or to outsiders who had permission. This right was controlled by the chiefs of the village clusters. Today visitors (non-residents) are generally allowed to fish for subsistence but not commercially.

Land Use. Due to their steepness, lack of a soil cover and inaccessibility, nearly all of the Rock Islands remain in undisturbed limestone forest. The only exceptions are the small islands of Ngeanges south of Ngeruktabel and Ngesebus north of Bliliou, both have portions of which are in agroforest. There are also

several structures on these two islands. Except for the few rustic facilities for tourists on the islands of Ulong, Ngeanges, Ngkesill, and Dmasech, no other developments exist on the Rock Islands. They remain pristine, largely unknown places.



Palau's spectacular Seventy Islands Preserve, perhaps its most well-known landmark.

Conserving and Protecting Rock Islands Resources

It has been said that the wealth of Palau lies in its unique and beautiful waters. The Government of Palau has recognized this fact in several important ways. Article VI of Palau's Constitution states that it is the policy of the national government to conserve the natural environment. Specific to the Rock Island is Section 201 of the Palau Code which legally established the Ngerukewid (Seventy Island) Wildlife Preserve to ensure the continuing existence of the preserve which had been set up earlier in Trust Territory times. Consisting of an isolated cluster of small islands and the surrounding marine waters (boundaries are indefinite) in the southwest portion of the archipelago, the area was selected because of the special fauna found here, primarily birds and reptiles. In addition, the Government of Palau's various economic development plans discuss the need for protected area status for the entire Rock Islands area with specific conservation and use zones to be established within.

For more than a decade the Government of Palau has expressed a need for technical assistance to improve its ability to manage marine resources of the Rock Islands and the Seventy Island Preserve areas. Major problems which have been encountered within the preserve include the poaching of pigeons and sea turtle eggs on the beaches and on land, and uncontrolled fishing and shell fishing in the adjacent water area.

Of particular concern is protecting the two species of endemic palm found here from the cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*). Introduced to Palau after World War II, this bird has since spread to most of the Rock Islands, including the Seventy Island Preserve. The cockatoo is especially fond of palm hearts and where they are numerous, has caused major damage to Palau's native palms.

The Bureau of Public Safety and the Division of Marine Resources, the government agencies responsible for protecting this vast area have been handicapped by a lack of manpower and equipment. As a result, the Rock Islands are left unpatrolled and the laws unenforced.

Other resource problems include trash and garbage left at picnic and camp sites, use of dynamite to fish, and foreign commercial fishermen poaching giant clams. None of these are trivial.

The trash and garbage has accumulated to the extent that rat populations are extreme on islands with picnic shelters. The rat abundance spreads human disease; threatens reproduction of some trees, palms, and native birds; and as word spreads through travel organizations, will depress the country's tourism trade. Fish dynamiting simply destroys a segment of the reef for more than a half century per shot. For a nation so dependent upon subsistence fishery, this may be tragically self-destructive.

Foreign commercial and local subsistence fisheries over exploiting the giant clam population is unfortunate. Giant clams can remain an extraordinary fine local subsistence food source and a dive/snorkel tourist attraction if the population is not decimated.

In the Rock Islands between Oreor and Bliliou, the government might also consider consolidating resource protection wardens of all types (fishery, terrestrial animals, forests, historic sites, submerged wrecks, historical sites, and enforcing garbage and sanitation at picnic sites) to a single group of Rock Islands patrol people. These people should first be expert people who know and care broadly about the

Rock Islands resources and have empathy for those who come to fish, sightsee, and enjoy them.

At present, it may be that infrequent enforcement patrols are actually even more infrequent because the enforcement officer may have "more important cases" to him back in town, or a warden in one discipline either unknowingly or without responsibility doesn't "see" or respond to other discipline offenses. One foresees increased damage to submerged wreck sites and historic places, increased dynamiting, destruction of biota and pollution of the finest recreational sites without a more pragmatic protection system.

The Government of Palau has recognized the need for baseline environmental data on which to base the long-term management of the Rock Islands and the adjacent lagoon waters. Other areas which contain superlative natural, cultural, and scenic values have been identified for potential protected area status.

Any expanded protected area should be managed with the following conditions in mind: areas of biological significance, such as vulnerable breeding areas, should receive special protection as should endangered species habitat; special protection should also be given to areas of cultural significance, such as the remains of prehistoric villages; there should be provisions to allow for the continuation of subsistence fishing and, in certain areas, for commercial fishing; protection of scenic and recreation (tourist) areas and cultural features and provision for the setting aside of certain areas for aquaculture. Protected area status should also include a recognition of the traditional tenure (lagoon, reef and land) system of control by the village chiefs, as well as respect for the jurisdiction of the State of Oreor and the various private holdings.

Management Concepts

Management concepts for any large park or preserve area encompassing all or a portion of the Rock Islands should focus on maintaining the existing marine and terrestrial resources. Only those uses should be permitted which are judged to be consistent with the perpetuation and, where possible, restoration of the natural environment.

Natural resource management should be guided by the concept of perpetuation of the total natural environment or ecosystem. The native plant and animal life should be protected against harvesting, removal, destruction, harassment, or harm through human action, except fishing for subsistence use. Alien (non-native) species should not be allowed to displace native species.

Wildlife management should be directed toward maintaining the population and diversity of fish species; protecting native, endemic, and endangered bird species and other animals such as sea turtles, dugongs, and fruit bats.

Visitor use activities should consist of sightseeing by boat (with restrictions as to size and type), nature observation, photography, picnicking (only at selected sites), snorkeling, scuba diving (only when it can be accommodated without material alteration or disturbance of the reserve environment). Camping should be in designated locations only.

All development should be limited to those facilities needed for management and appropriate visitor use and enjoyment and only at designated sites. Developments should always harmonize with the site -- both in design and in materials used.

Bliliou looking north toward the Rock Islands. The airstrip is visible running up the middle of the island; beyond it lies Bloody Nose Ridge, now subdued by vegetation.



Boundary Options

Figure 20 shows the general extent of alternative areas for Palauans to consider setting aside as parks or preserves in order to protect the unique natural and cultural values found in the Rock Islands. Each of these areas contains a fine sampling of the Rock Islands environment. Together they form a scenic expanse of lagoon waters and island ecosystems operating in a largely balanced and self-sustaining fashion which is perhaps unsurpassed in the world.

[Figure 20. Rock Islands Areas Worthy of National Park or Preserve Status](#)

PARK PROTECTION POSSIBILITIES

Palau's traditional land system has been replaced to some degree by tenure systems introduced by outsiders -- the Germans, Japanese, and Americans. However, on the lands and waters affected by the areas identified in this report as having park potential, traditional tenure continues to play an important role. Land here is still regarded as belonging to present and future generations of the clan and therefore cannot be sold. There is in Palau though an important distinction between the right to use land and the right to its title. The former is generally enforced through informal social control and the latter enforced through legal means. Consequently, it would appear that park lands could not realistically be protected through acquisition, either in fee or less-than-fee. On the other hand, if chiefs or the clans were willing to dedicate use of their lands for park purposes, this method would be consistent with the traditional tenure system and would not alienate Palauans from their land.

Essentially, the options calling for a U. S./ Palauan affiliation in managing historical and natural areas envision the creation of a partnership arrangement. This partnership would be based on the following: the dedication in perpetuity of certain lands and waters by Palauans (traditional chiefs, state governments, the Council of Chiefs, and the Government of Palau) for park purposes and providing some funding for park operations in return for the provision of technical assistance, training, and funding for park operations by the U. S. National Park Service.

The contribution by the U. S. is logical and appropriate because the events which took place on the island of Biliou in the autumn of 1944 were important to the history of the United States.

For Palauans, allowing their lands to be dedicated for park purposes would be compensated by the economic development generated by the creation of new jobs and the likely, though gradual, expansion of tourism, both brought on by the establishment of national parks.

If the Government of Palau were to opt for the establishment of historical parks or natural area preserves, consideration should be given to the creation of an agency within the Executive Branch which would have direct responsibility for the preservation and administration of these areas for the benefit of the people of Palau.

[Table J. Management Options to Protect Biliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands](#)

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APPENDICES

Appendix A - National Significance, Peleliu Battlefield (excerpted from the National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form for the Peleliu Battlefield, Palau Islands by Erwin N. Thompson, NPS Historian, June 1984)

The battle for Peleliu Island, the Gateway to the Philippines, was the longest and one of the most hard-fought battles in the entire Central Pacific amphibious operations of World War II. In contrast to earlier combats where the Japanese had vainly attempted to annihilate the enemy on the beaches, Peleliu's defenses were organized with the main line of resistance established inland, artillery and mortar fire registered on the beaches, and defenses skillfully arranged in depth in order to sustain resistance to an attack while destroying the enemy. Although the crack Japanese troops lost the battle, their new tactics enabled them to inflict heavy losses on American Marine and Army forces and to hold out for 74 days. While some strategists have argued that the capture of Peleliu was not a necessary preliminary for the coming struggle in the Philippines, brave men bled and died in the Palaus for their beliefs and their loyalties. Peleliu marked the conclusion of the Central Pacific drive toward the Philippines. A new phase of the Pacific War was already underway.

Background

Japan seized the Palau Islands, along with the rest of Micronesia, from Germany in World War I. Receiving a mandate from the League of Nations after the war, Japan established its administrative headquarters for Micronesia at Koror, the capital of the Republic of Palau today. On Peleliu Island, thirty miles south of Koror, a phosphate crushing plant was established and, by World War II, an excellent airfield had been constructed. When war came, the Palaus served as a staging area and replacement depot for Japan's forces in the Netherlands, East Indies, and New Guinea.

Even before the U. S. Navy carried out a devastating fast carrier strike on naval installations at Truk Atoll in February 1944, the Japanese had pulled all forward-based elements of the Combined Fleet back to Palau. At this same time, General Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific forces prepared to move into the Hollandia area in New Guinea in their drive toward the Philippines. Concerned that Japanese naval and air power in the Palaus could strike at Hollandia, a large task force of fast carriers under Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher raided Palau on March 30 and 31, 1944. Peleliu's fighter planes rose to the defense and many were shot down. American planes succeeded in mining the harbor at Koror and destroyed or damaged 36 Japanese ships.

Spurred on by this raid to strengthen Palau's defenses, Japan transferred the veteran Fourteenth Division under Lieutenant General Sadal Inoue from Manchuria to Palau in April 1944. Inoue established his headquarters at Koror and placed the bulk of his army force on adjacent Babeldaup Island where he planned to fight to the death. He dispatched the reinforced 2nd Infantry Regiment under Colonel Kunio Nakagawa to Peleliu and one battalion of the 59th Infantry Regiment to Angaur, an island seven miles south of Peleliu. Peleliu's garrison amounted to approximately 10,500 men of whom 6,500 were combat troops and some 4,000 were naval personnel.

Nakagawa carefully planned the island's defenses in depth. Potential landing beaches were mined, offshore obstacles erected, anti-tank ditches skillfully located so as to channel enemy tanks toward anti-tank weapons, barbed wire strung, and artillery and mortars placed so as to shell the beaches with direct and enfilade fire. Extensive cave fortifications honeycombed the limestone ridges in the northern half of the island.

Stalemate II

The American plan for the invasion of Palau, Stalemate II, as it finally evolved, called for Admiral William F. Halsey to command the Western Pacific Task Forces. Halsey's Third Fleet covered the approach of the Joint Expeditionary Force. Major General Julian C. Smith, USMC, commanded the Expeditionary Troops, and Major General Roy S. Geiger III, USMC, was in charge of the III Amphibious Corps. Under Geiger, Major General William H. Rupertus, USMC, commanded the First Marine Division which was to seize Peleliu, and Major General Paul J. Mueller, USA, commanded the 81st Infantry Division which was to capture Angaur and Ulithi Atoll. Stalemate II was the largest amphibious force yet seen in the Pacific. Its strength totaled 800 vessels, 1,600 aircraft, and 250,000 men.

The First Marine Division, thoroughly experienced in the New Britain campaign, was composed of the 1st, 5th, and 7th Marine Regiments and the 11th Artillery Regiment. The 81st Infantry Division had no previous combat experience but had completed jungle and amphibious training in Hawaii. Its 321st and 322nd Infantry Regiments were assigned the capture of Angaur, while its 323rd Regiment was to occupy Ulithi Atoll about halfway between Palau and the Mariana Islands. The two divisions were brought together on Guadalcanal for a week of tactical rehearsals before sailing west.

Beginning in August 1944, the U. S. Thirteenth Air Force began bombing the Palaus. On September 6, Halsey's fast carrier groups started full-scale attacks on the islands. Six days later, a naval gunfire bombardment of Peleliu and Angaur began. D-Day for landing on Peleliu was set for September 15. Mine sweepers and underwater demolition teams began sweeping the waters and removing obstacles from Peleliu's southwestern beaches. Early morning, September 15, found the Third Amphibious Corps off Peleliu. The First Marine Division prepared to land.

The Battle

Peleliu's southwestern beaches had been code-named White 1 and 2 and Orange 1, 2, and 3. The three reinforced regiments (regimental combat teams (RCTs)), landing abreast on a 2,200-yard beachhead, touched shore at 8:33 a.m. On the left (north), two battalions of the 1st Marines landed on Beaches White 1 and 2. In the center, two battalions of the 5th Marines hit Beaches Orange 1 and 2. The 7th Marines came ashore in a column of battalions on Beach Orange 3 on the right (south). Immediately, murderous Japanese mortar fire and enfilading cannon fire on both flanks swept the beaches hitting as many as sixty landing vehicles and fifteen tanks. Observing the smoking vehicles, Colonel Nakagawa reported, too optimistically, to Koror, "Our forces successfully put the enemy to rout."

On the 1st Marines' extreme left flank, Japanese gunners placed enfilading fire from positions in a coral outcropping at the water's edge. Seventy yards inland, an unsuspected coral ridge was alive with Japanese who swept the beach with marine gun and rifle fire. A company of Marines successfully reduced the coral outcropping but with heavy casualties. Moreover, the company became cut off from the adjacent unit and would remain isolated for the next thirty hours. The Marine Corps' official history concludes that had the Japanese mounted a major counterattack at this point, "the Marines might have been driven into the sea." The 1st Marines' right flank battalion on Beach White 2 had better success. It reached its first objective 350 yards inland by mid-morning, encountering moderate resistance. There it halted because of the stalemate on the left. By 9 a.m., the 5th Marines had reached its objective, an open space on the west side of the airfield. The left battalion halted at that point because of the inability of the 1st Marines to advance. The right battalion had more success. Although the battalion's units became scattered, one

company succeeded in driving across the island and reaching the eastern shore.

The 7th Marines on the southern flank experienced much the same withering enfilade fire as did the 1st Marines. From a small islet and a promontory at the south end of Peleliu, the Japanese delivered heavy fire against the 7th's exposed flank. The regiment continued to make progress, however, until it came up against a heavily fortified area containing the Japanese circular blockhouse. There it dug in for the night to await the assistance of tanks. In the day-long drive, the 7th Marines, too, suffered heavy casualties.

In the late afternoon, the Japanese made their first counterattack when from twelve to seventeen light tanks emerged in front of



Green-clad marines boarding their LVT's off Bliliou at dawn on D-day, September 15, 1944. (National Archives)



An F4U "Corsair" releases its bomb over Bloody Nose Ridge. It was a 15-second run from the airfield to the target and pilots often never even bothered to raise their wheels. (National Archives)

the 5th Marines. Although a few tanks got through to the beachhead, all but one were destroyed. Despite the troubles on the flanks, the Marines had succeeded in establishing a beachhead 3,000 yards long, 500 yards average depth, and a maximum depth of 1,500 yards.

On September 16, the 5th Marines completed the capture of the airfield. In the south, the 7th Marines overcame the blockhouse and reached the eastern shore. It gained all of southern Peleliu by nightfall except two promontories at the southern tip. In the north, the 1st Marines began a turning movement northward against the Umurbrogal ridges beyond the airfield. Quickly running into fierce resistance, the Marines made little progress.

The next day, D+2, the 1st Marines gained a few hundred yards in the level area of the west coast, up West Road, but were thwarted gain in the attempt to gain the limestone ridges, especially at Bloody Nose Ridge. The 1st Marines counted 1,500 casualties in their ranks by the end of this third day of fighting. Meanwhile, the 7th Marines completed the capture of southern Peleliu, including the promontories; and the 5th Marines began an easy drive up the eastern arm of the island.

American light planes were able to land on the airfield on September 19. That same day, the 1st Marines renewed the attack on the ridges, making small gains, but again stopped at Bloody Nose Ridge. To the east, a company of the 7th Marines gained the crest of Walt Ridge but, suffering extremely heavy casualties, was forced to withdraw. During the next

three days both the 1st and 7th RCTs assaulted the ridges time and again, without success. By September 22, the First Marine Division had suffered nearly 4,000 casualties, the 1st Marine Regiment alone losing 56 percent of its strength. General Rupertus decided to cease frontal attacks on the southern ridges; instead, he planned a drive up the west coast and an attack on the Umurbrogal complex from the north.

Before the invasion, General Rupertus thought he could capture Peleliu in four days. A week had now passed and despite the heavy casualties, Rupertus was unwilling to call for assistance from army troops of the 81st Infantry Division. He remained so stubborn about this that the corps commander, General Geiger, had to step in and direct the 321st Infantry Regiment to move from Angaur to Peleliu, where it landed September 23. The depleted 1st Marine Regiment was taken off Peleliu on September 30, its casualty figure having reached 1,672.

Another reason Rupertus wished to take northern Peleliu at this time was the 25,000-man Japanese force on Babeldaup that could be expected to reinforce Peleliu. Indeed, on September 23, Japanese barges approached the island from the north. The Americans spotted this reinforcement and sank the barges. Most of the Japanese made it to shore nevertheless. The same scene occurred the following night. It was estimated that from 600 to 700 Japanese reinforcements reached Peleliu.

On September 24, Rupertus sent his unwanted soldiers on a push up the West Road. The 321st RCT reached its objective, discovering along the way a trail running across the ridges toward East Road. A company, directed to explore the trail, moved eastward and succeeded in capturing Hill 100, the northern bastion of the Japanese defenses in the Umurbrogal ridges. The following day, the 321st reached East Road thus dividing the Japanese defenses on the island. At the same time, it pushed north along West Road until it reached the village of Garekoru. The 5th Marines took over at this point to begin the process of cleaning up the northern tip of Peleliu and its elaborate caves in the Amiangal ridges. On September 28, the 5th Marines also occupied Naegebus Island and its unfinished runway. Marine Fighter Squadron 114 provided air support on this occasion.

As September drew to a close, Japanese losses were estimated to be over 9,250, while the First Marine Division's casualties had mounted to over 5,000 men.

On September 30, the 7th Marines began an assault on the Umurbrogal ridges in an effort to reduce the pocket, which measured about 1,500 yards north to south and 500 yards in width. Elements of the 5th Marines joined the attack the following day. By October 3, the Marines had captured the crests of two important ridges, Walt and Boyd, on the eastern side of the pocket, thus opening East Road. The 7th Marines, particularly, experienced heavy casualties in this four-day fight. By the evening of October 4, the 7th "was no longer able to function as an effective combat unit on the regimental level." Rupertus ordered the 5th Marines to relieve the 7th.

Between October 6 and 14, the 5th Marines made repeated attacks on the pocket, steadily making small gains, particularly in the north and northwest. It captured such landmarks as Baldy Ridge, Ridge 120, Ridge 3, Hill 140, and knobs of coral not named. Then, on October 14, General Rupertus withdrew all the First Marine Division from the battle lines, replacing it with the 321st RCT and a battalion of the 323rd Infantry Regiment freshly arrived from Ulithi Atoll. Rupertus remained in command at Peleliu until October 20 when Major General Paul J. Mueller, commanding the 81st Infantry Division, replaced him. During the month the First Marine Division fought on Peleliu, it suffered no fewer than 6,265 casualties, of which 1,124 were dead and 117 were missing.

Colonel Nakagawa reported on October 14 that his force had been reduced to 1,150 armed men.

The 81st began a methodical tightening of its lines around the pocket on October 21. Not without difficulty it captured the northern hills called the Five Brothers, one by one. In Horseshoe Valley, west of Walt Ridge, it succeeded in cutting the Japanese off from their water supply at Grinlinton Pond. (This accomplishment was offset by heavy rains that replenished the Japanese water supply.) On November 2, the 323rd RCT captured the Five Sisters, including Bloody Nose Ridge against which the 1st Marines had hurled itself so long ago. Japanese fighting strength was now reduced to 350 men. Little action occurred on either side between November 4 and 9 as a typhoon swept over Peleliu. On November 13, the assault and occupation of Peleliu was again announced, this time by General Geiger.

That same day, the two infantry regiments began the final drive. On November 24, the Japanese burned the 2nd Infantry's regimental flag and all secret documents. In the evening a last radio message was sent to Koror advising that the 56 remaining combatants had organized into 17 raiding groups and would hide in the jungle and caves to harass the enemy. During the night, General Murai and Colonel Nakagawa committed suicide. It had taken U. S. forces almost 2-1/2 months to complete what began as a four-day operation.

The 81st Division did not declare an end to organized resistance until November 27:

At 1030, 27 November all organized resistance on Peleliu ceased when the Commanders of the battalions of the 323rd Infantry met at the cave which had been the headquarters of Colonel Kunio Nakagawa, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Regiment, 14th Japanese Imperial Division and the last high ranking Japanese Commander on Peleliu.

The division's casualties in the Palaus amounted to 542 killed and 3,275 wounded or injured. For months to come, Japanese continued to be captured or killed on the island. In January 1945, a Japanese raiding party landed on Peleliu. It was swiftly wiped out. Twenty-seven Japanese surrendered in April 1947. As late as 1955, a Korean civilian was seized on Peleliu -- two years after the Korean War.

As they had in earlier battles, Japanese-Americans (Nisei) performed important duties on Peleliu as interpreters and translators. The Third Amphibious Corps reported also that it had made extensive use of the famous Navajo Talkers in their radio communications. Not so successful was the use of the Marines' war dogs. While the dogs served well in the beginning on sentry duty and patrols, they became increasingly nervous and tired under the strain of heavy mortar fire. As the battle progressed, many of their handlers were killed or wounded and strangers could not work the dogs. An exceptional dog was Duke, Z876, a German shepherd, who carried twenty pounds of maps and papers 1-1/2 miles across the airfield under heavy enemy mortar fire.

The remaining Japanese in Palau, some 25,000, spent the rest of World War II waiting for the enemy to land so that they could give their lives for their Emperor. The opportunity never came. On Peleliu, U. S. Navy Seabees reconstructed the Japanese airfield and built a naval base. Army engineers hacked a bomber field out of the jungle on nearby Angaur. Ulithi Atoll became an important fleet anchorage, especially for the 1945 invasion of Okinawa.

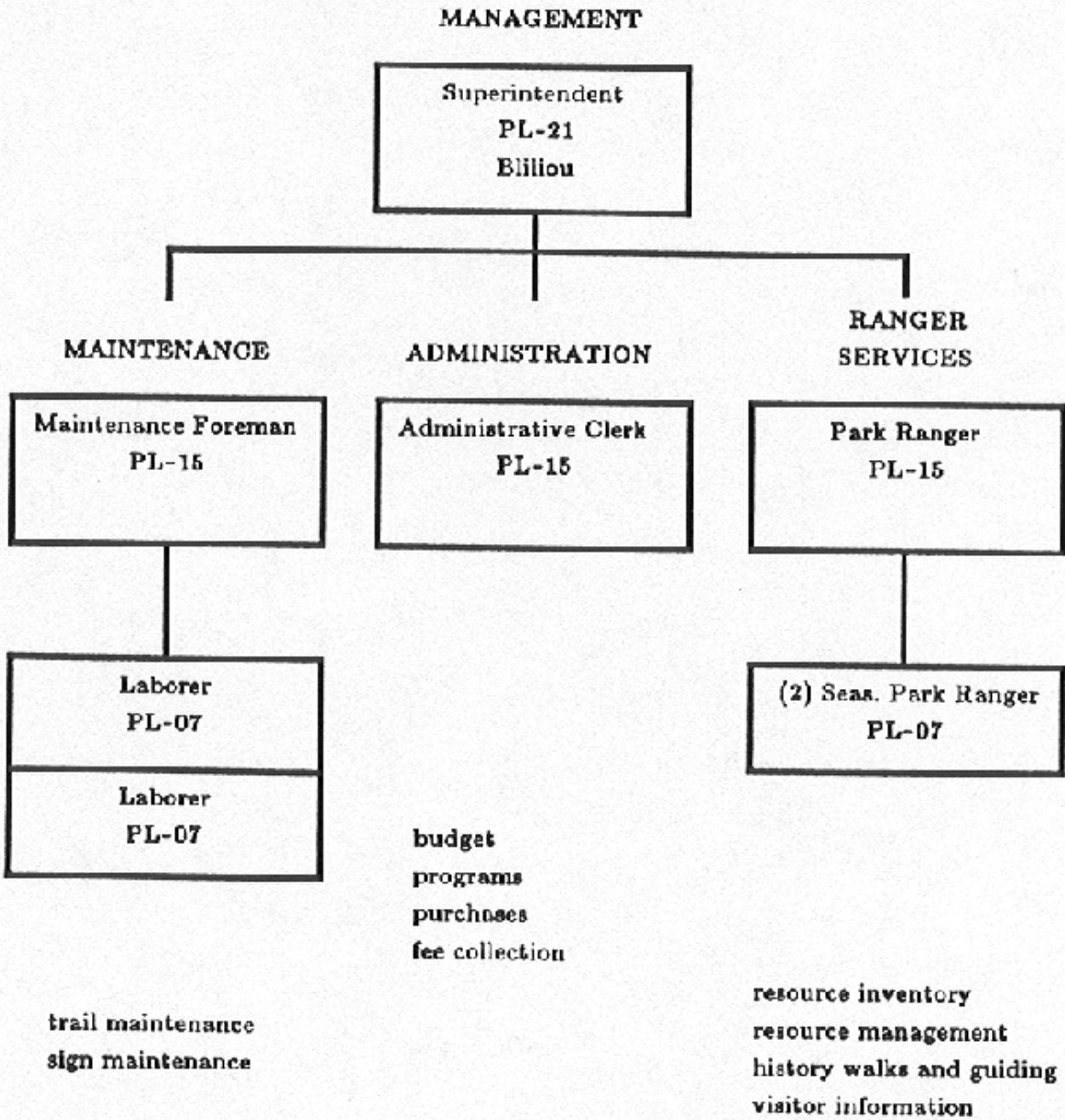
Bloody Nose Ridge, Five Sisters, Five Brothers, China Wall, Death Valley, Snipers' Mile, Hell's Pocket, Baldy Ridge... The Palau operation turned out to be one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific War -- and one of the most forgotten.

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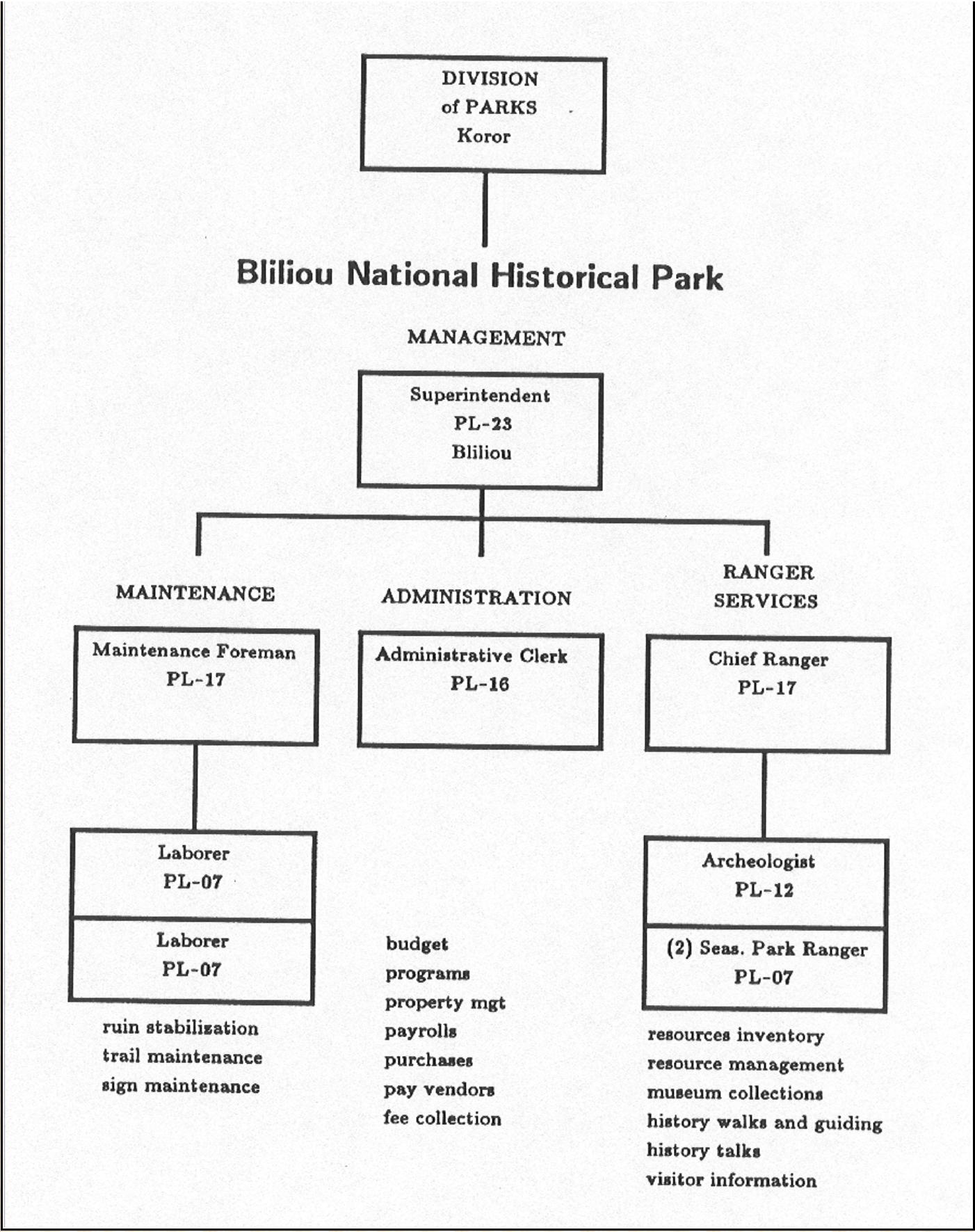
Option C.

Bliliou State Historical Park



Option D.

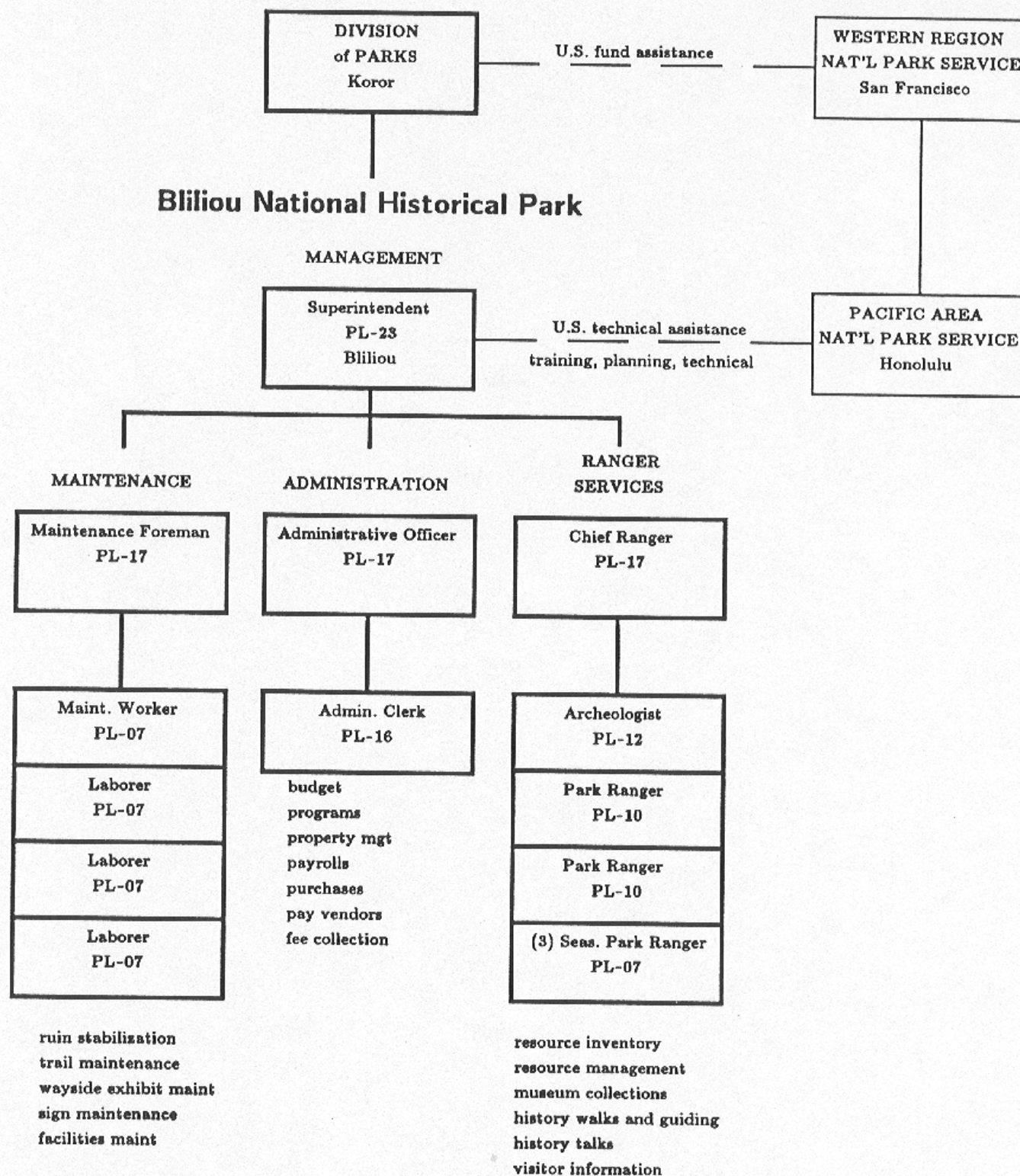
Republic of Palau



Option E.

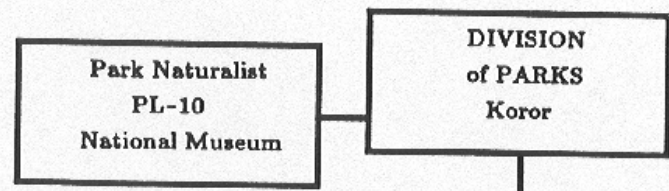
Republic of Palau

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



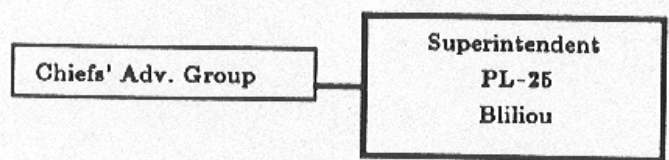
Option F.

Republic of Palau

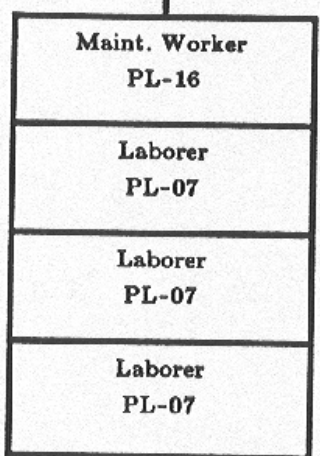
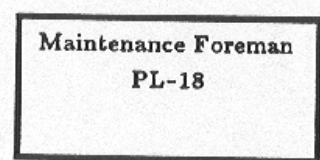


Bliliou-Rock Islands National Park

MANAGEMENT

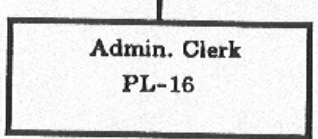
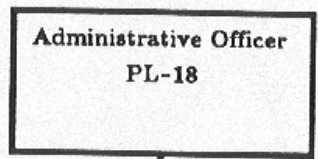


MAINTENANCE



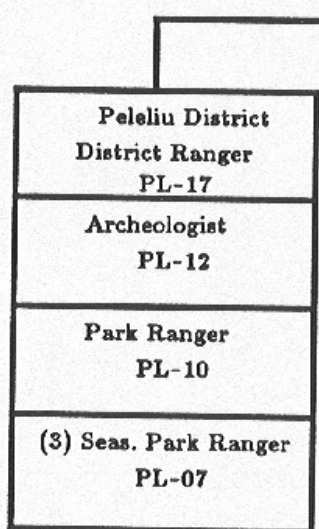
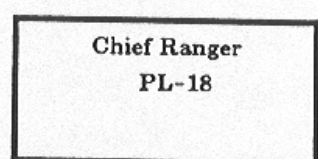
ruin stabilization
trail maintenance
wayside exhibit maint
sign maintenance
facilities maint

ADMINISTRATION

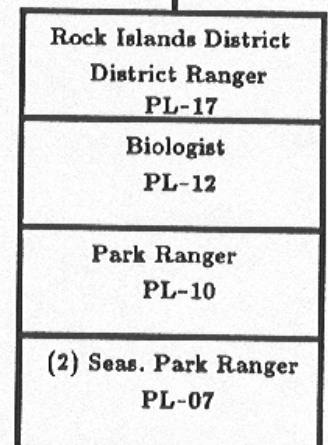


budget
programs
property mgt
payrolls
purchases
pay vendors

RANGER SERVICES



historic resource inventory
resource management
museum collections
history walks and guiding
history talks
visitor information

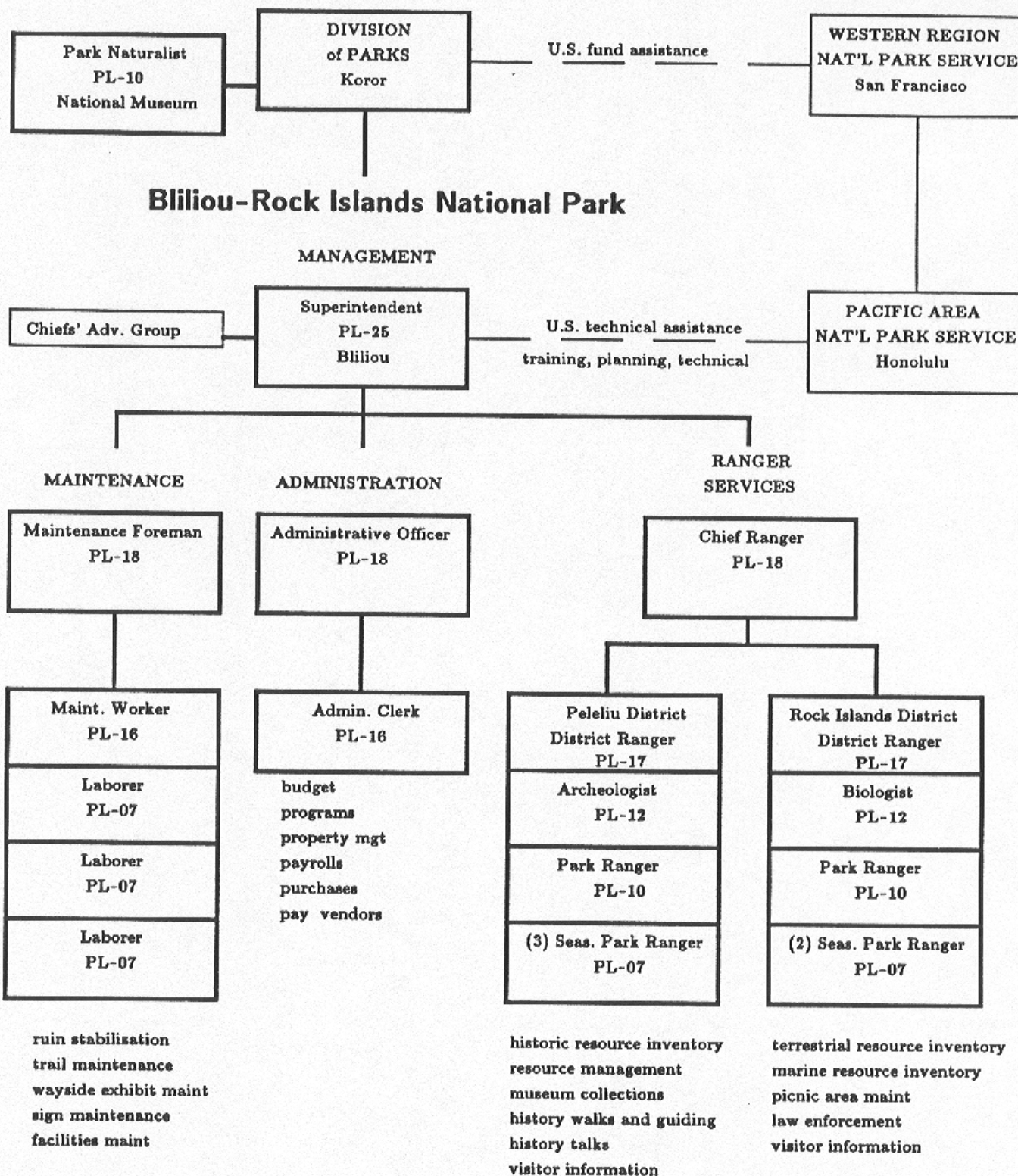


terrestrial resource inventory
marine resource inventory
picnic area maint
law enforcement
visitor information

Option G.

Republic of Palau

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



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Option C. State of Bliliou.

	Position		
Title	Classification	Full Time	Budget
	Grade	Equivalency	Amount

Superintendent	PL-21	1.0	\$10,123
Maintenance Foreman	PL-15	1.0	7,623
Chief Ranger	PL-15	1.0	7,623
Administrative Clerk	PL-15	1.0	7,623
Laborer (2)	PL-07	2.0	<u>10,853</u>
Total Permanent Full Time			\$43,846
Other Benefits (20%)			8,769
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			\$52,615
Seasonal Park Ranger (2)	PL-07	1.0	\$ 5,427
Other Benefits (10%)			<u>543</u>
Total Part Time with Benefits			\$ 5,969
Grand Total Personnel Costs			\$58,584

Option D. Republic of Palau. Bliliou National Historical Park

	Position		
Title	Classification	Full Time	Budget
	Grade	Equivalency	Amount

Superintendent	PL-23	1.0	\$10,618
Maintenance Foreman	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Chief Ranger	PL-15	1.0	8,253
Administrative Clerk	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Archeologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Laborer (2)	PL-07	2.0	<u>10,853</u>
Total Permanent Full Time			\$52,497
Other Benefits (20%)			10,499
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			\$62,997
Seasonal Park Ranger (2)	PL-07	1.0	\$ 5,427
Other Benefits (10%)			<u>543</u>
Total Part Time with Benefits			\$ 5,969
Grand Total Personnel Costs			\$68,966

Option E. Republic of Palau in Association with United States. Bliliou National Historical Park.

	Position		
Title	Classification	Full Time	Budget
	Grade	Equivalency	Amount
Superintendent	PL-23	1.0	\$10,618

Maintenance Foreman	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Administrative Officer	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Chief Ranger	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Maintenance Worker	PL-07	1.0	5,427
Administrative Clerk	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Archeologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Park Ranger (2)	PL-10	2.0	12,230
Laborer (3)	PL-07	3.0	16,280
Total Permanent Full Time			\$ 83,835
Other Benefits (20%)			16,767
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			\$100,602
Seasonal Park Ranger (3)	PL-07	1.0	\$ 5,427
Other Benefits (10%)			543
Total Part Time with Benefits			\$ 5,969
Grand Total Personnel Costs			\$106,571

Options F and/or G. Republic of Palau or by Republic of Palau in Association with U. S. Biliou -- Rock Islands National Park

	Position		
Title	Classification	Full Time	Budget
	Grade	Equivalency	Amount
Superintendent	PL-25	1.0	\$ 11,927
Maintenance Foreman	PL-18	1.0	8,677
Administrative Officer	PL-18	1.0	8,676
Chief Ranger	PL-18	1.0	8,676
Rock Islands District			

Ranger	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Peleliu District Ranger PL-17	PL-17	1.0	8,253
Administrative Clerk	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Maintenance Foreman	PL-16	1.0	7,860
Archeologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Archeologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Biologist	PL-12	1.0	6,658
Park Naturalist (Nat Museum)	PL-10	1.0	6,115
Park Ranger (2)	PL-10	2.0	12,230
Laborer (3)	PL-07	3.0	<u>16,280</u>
Total Permanent Full Time			\$118,124
Other Benefits (20%)			23,625
Total Permanent Full Time with Benefits			\$141,749
Seasonal Park Ranger (3)	PL-07	2.5	\$ 13,567
Other Benefits (10%)			<u>1,357</u>
Total Part Time with Benefits			\$ 14,923
Grand Total Personnel Costs			\$156,673

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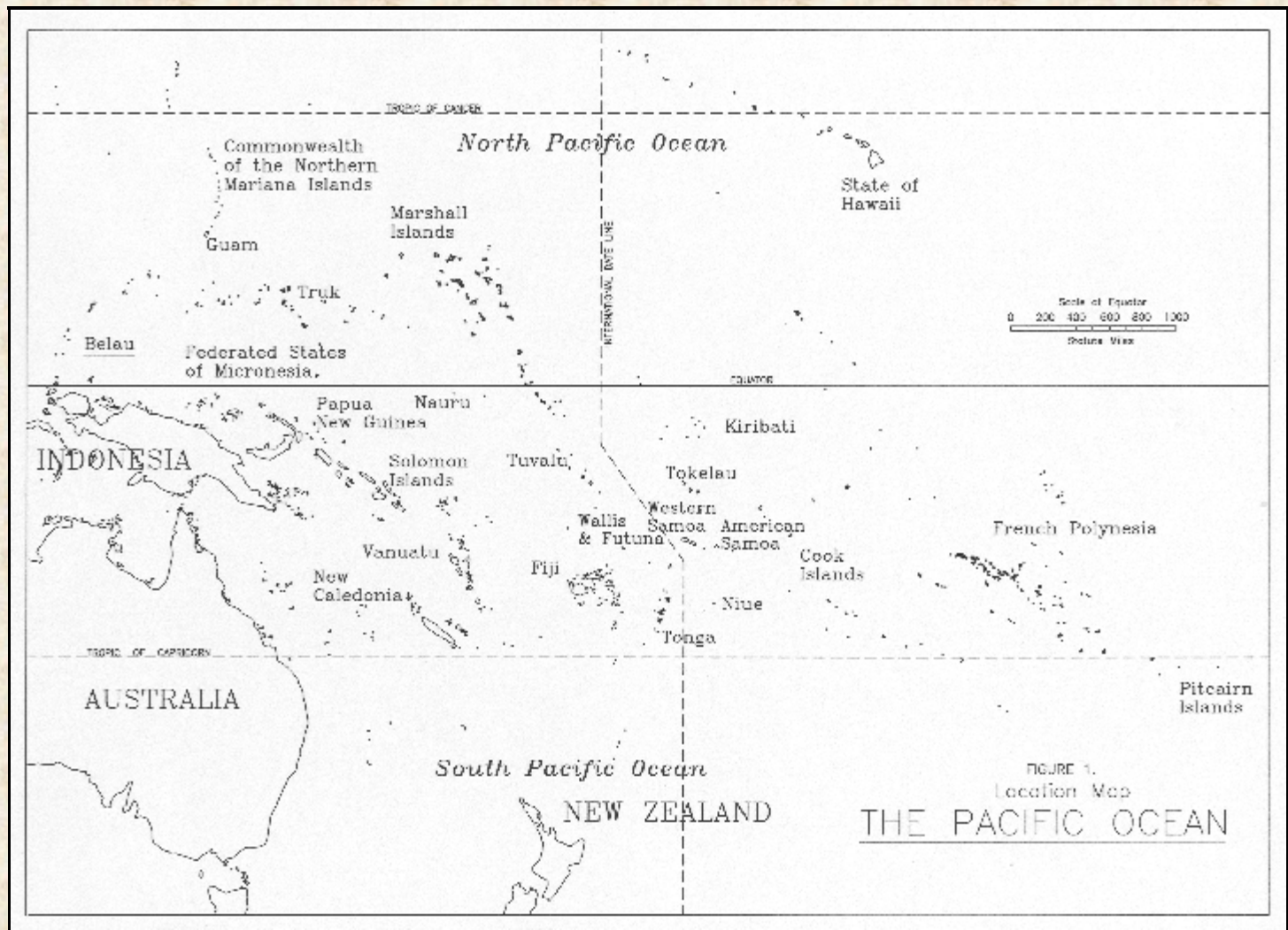
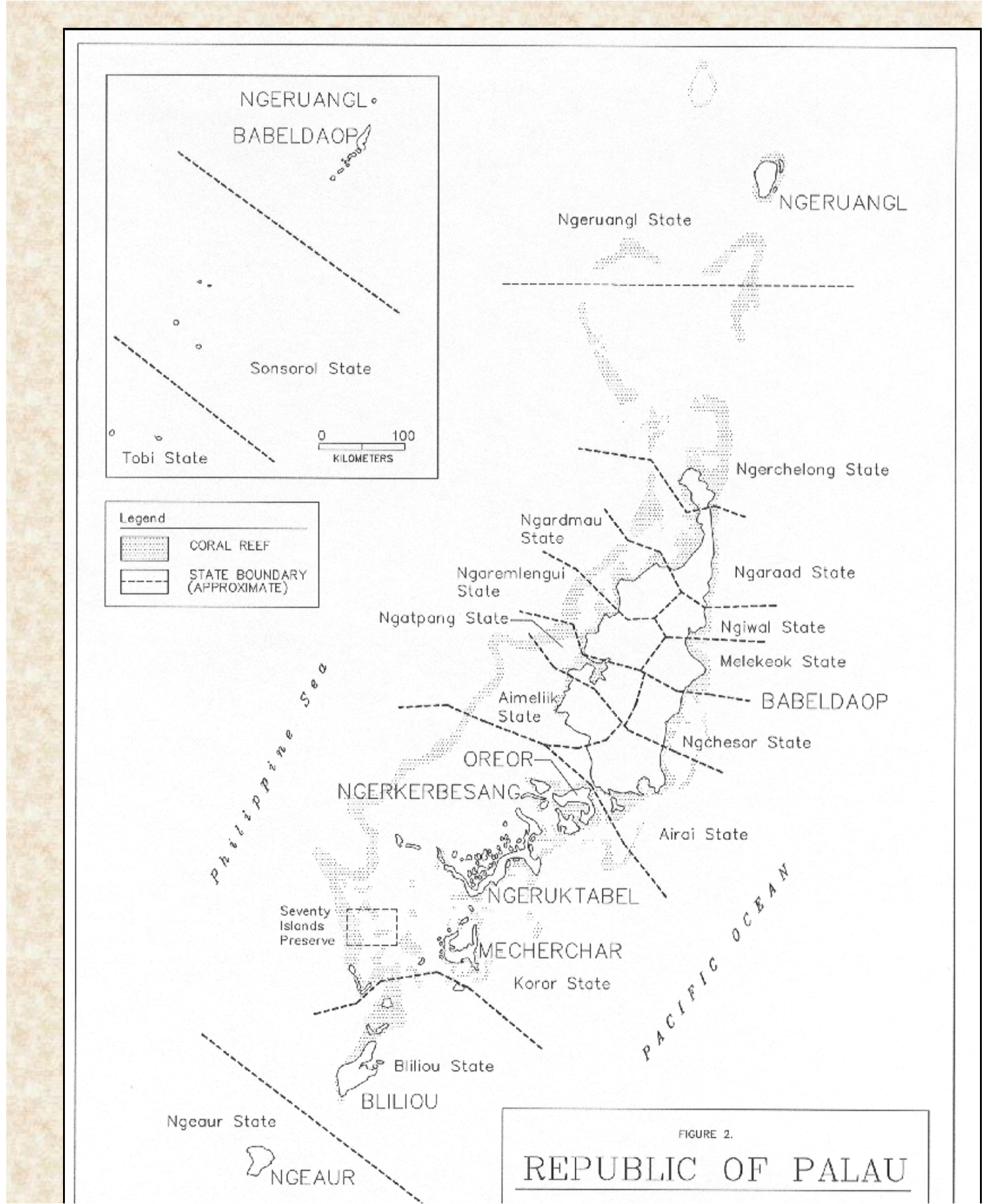


Figure 1. Location Map, The Pacific Ocean Islands; portions of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

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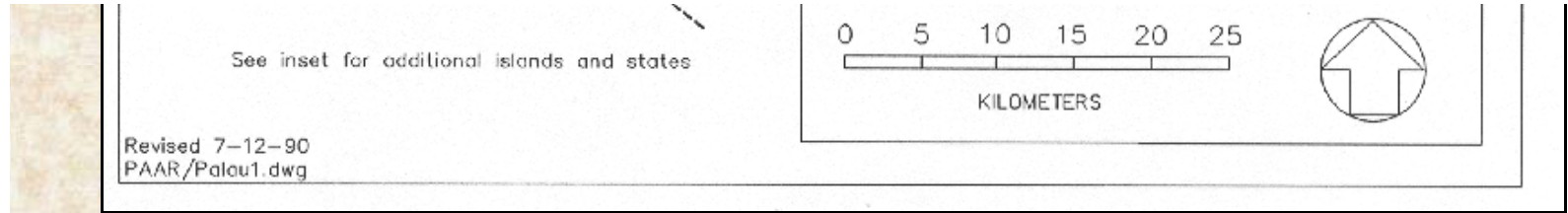


Figure 2. States of the Republic of Palau

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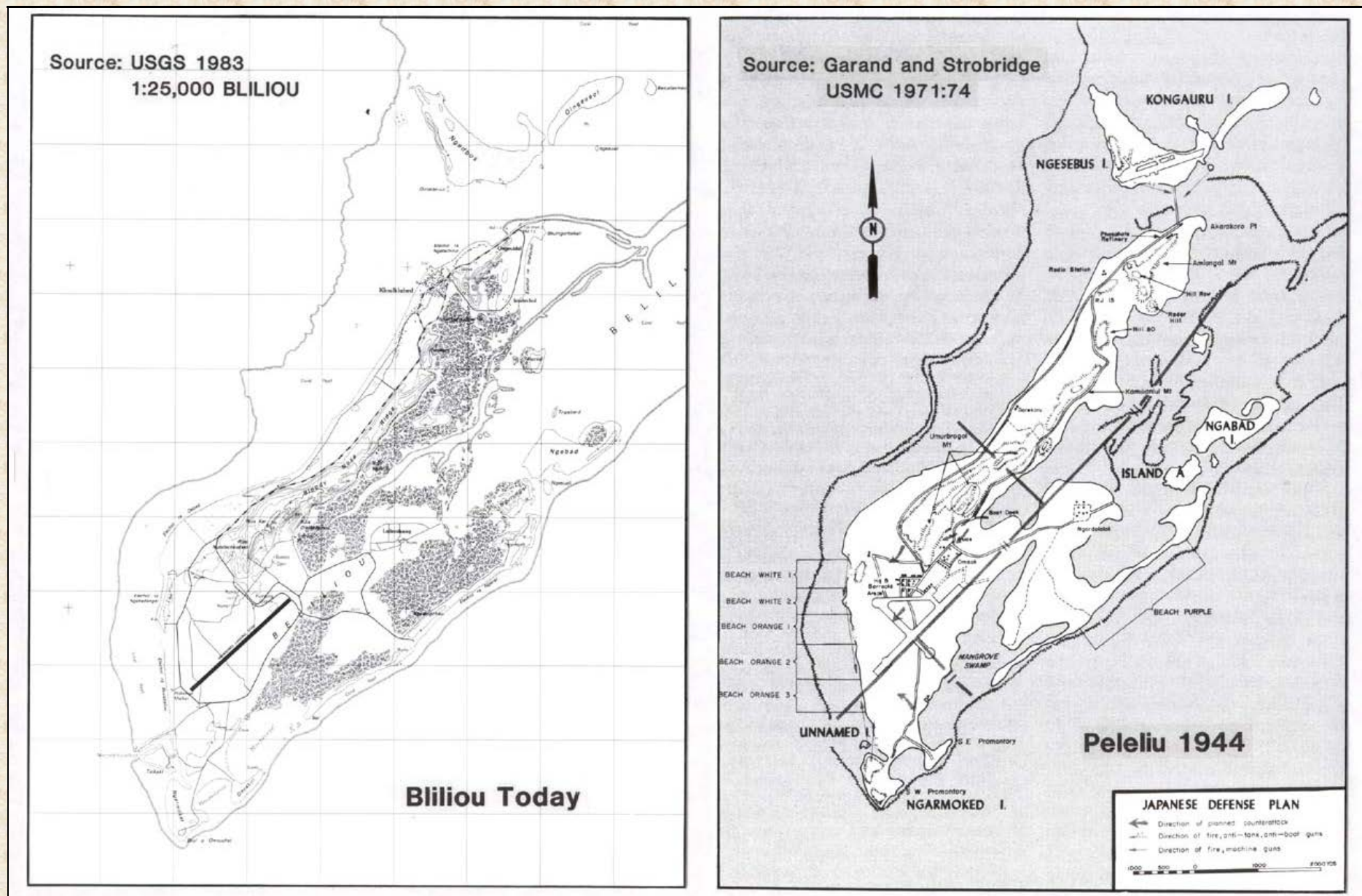


Figure 3. Peleliu 1944; Bliliou Today, and Figure 4. Peleliu 1944.

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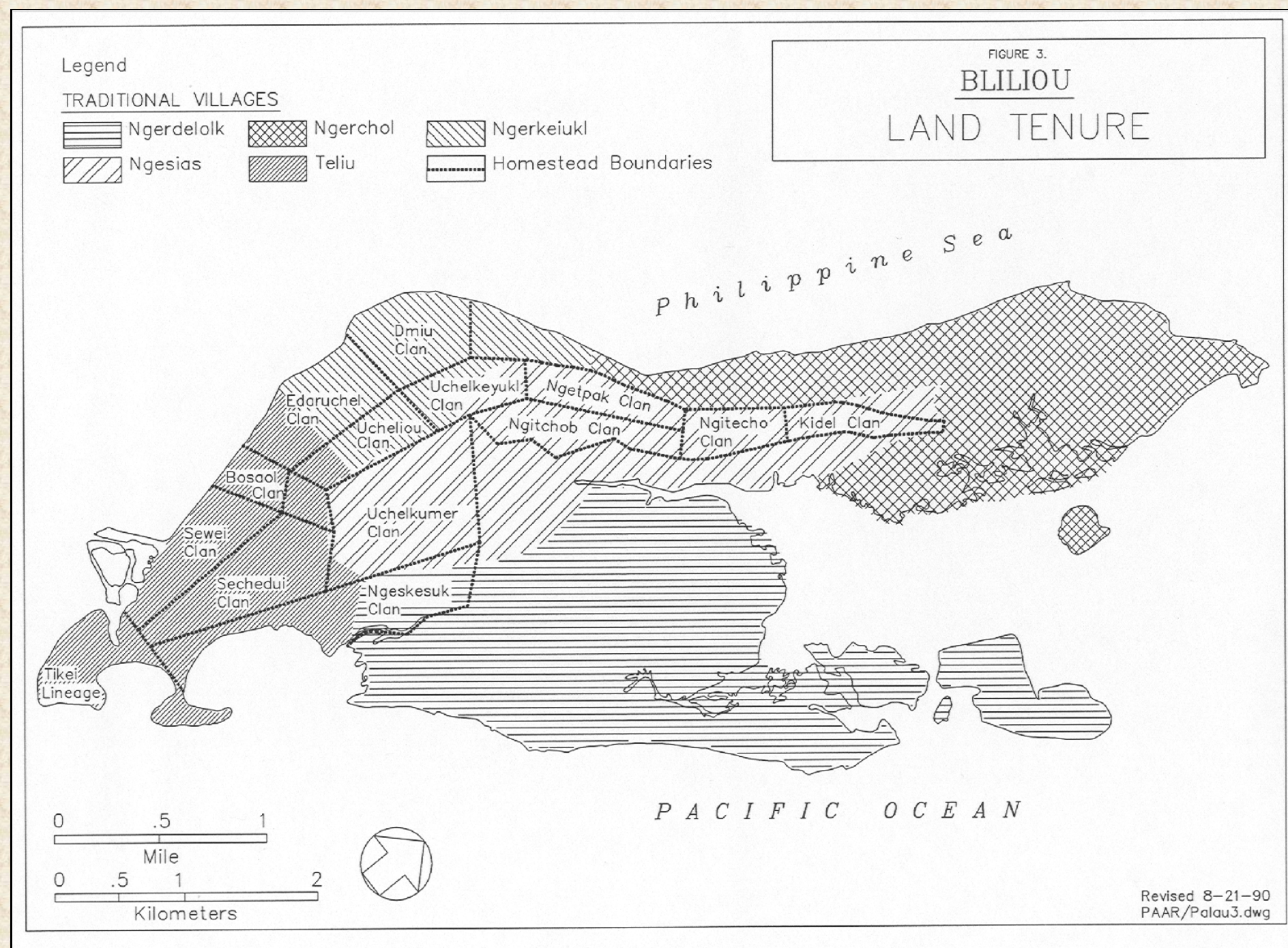


Figure 4. Land Tenure

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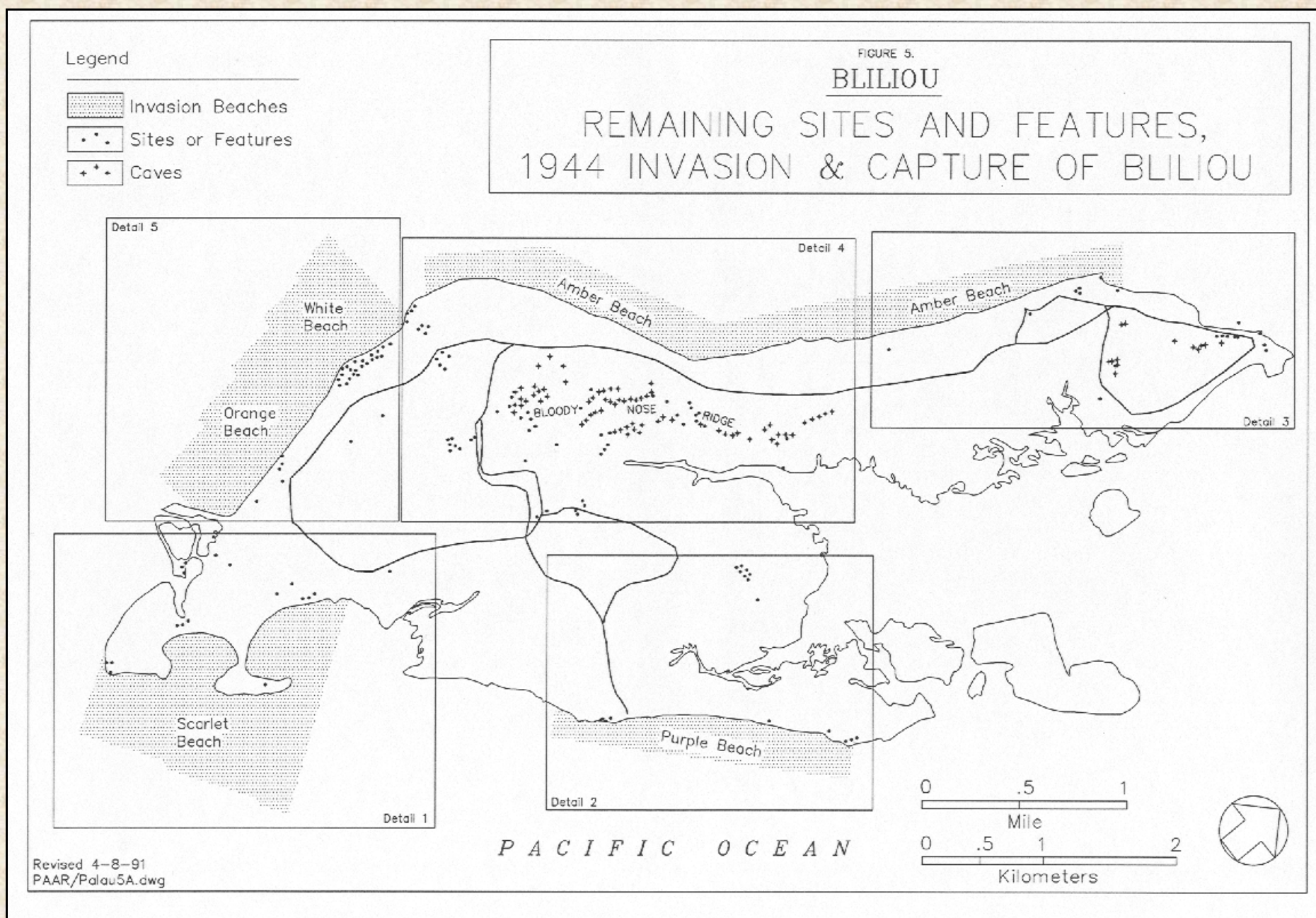


Figure 5. Remaining sites and features, 1944 Invasion & Capture of Bliliou

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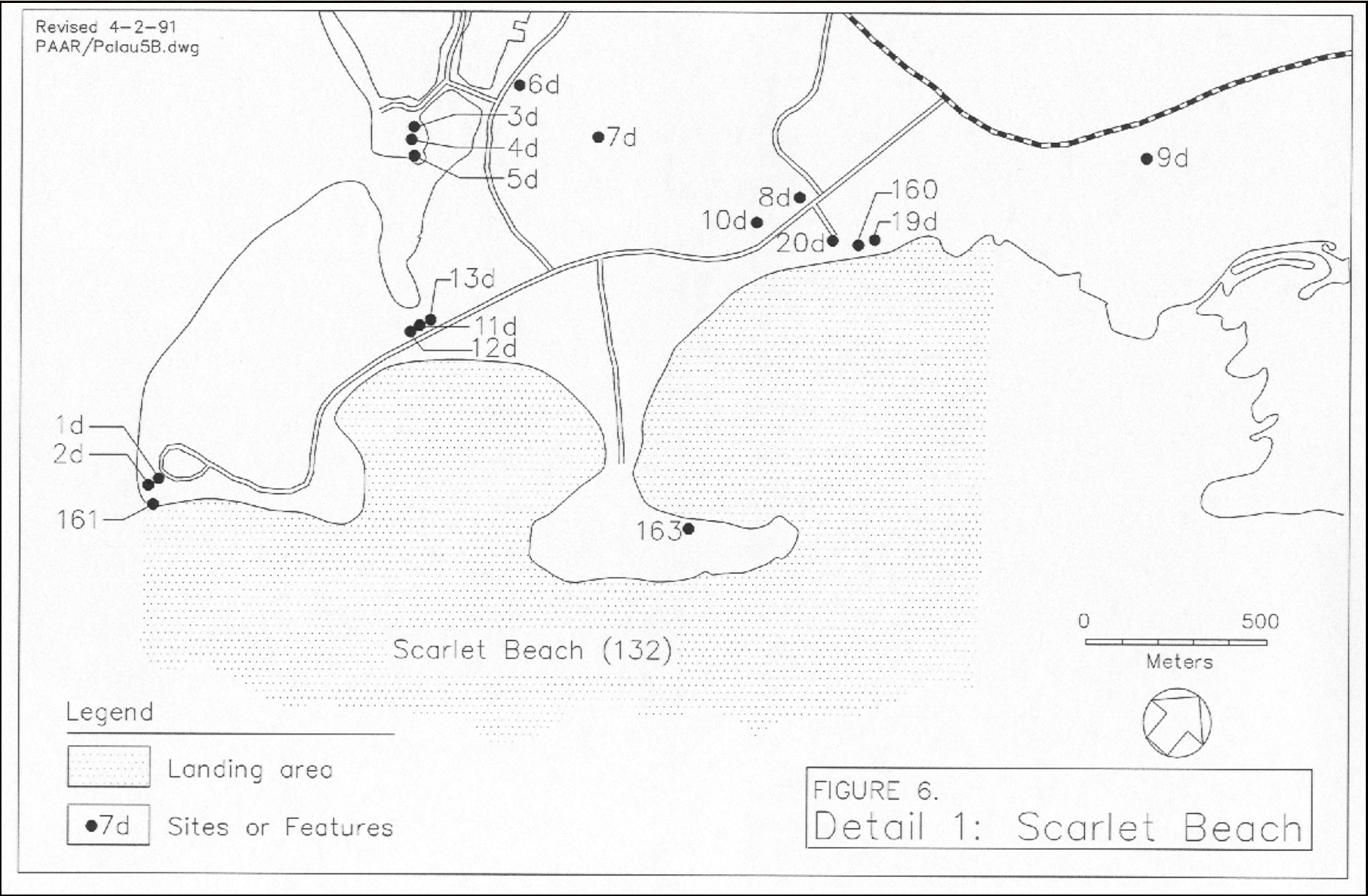
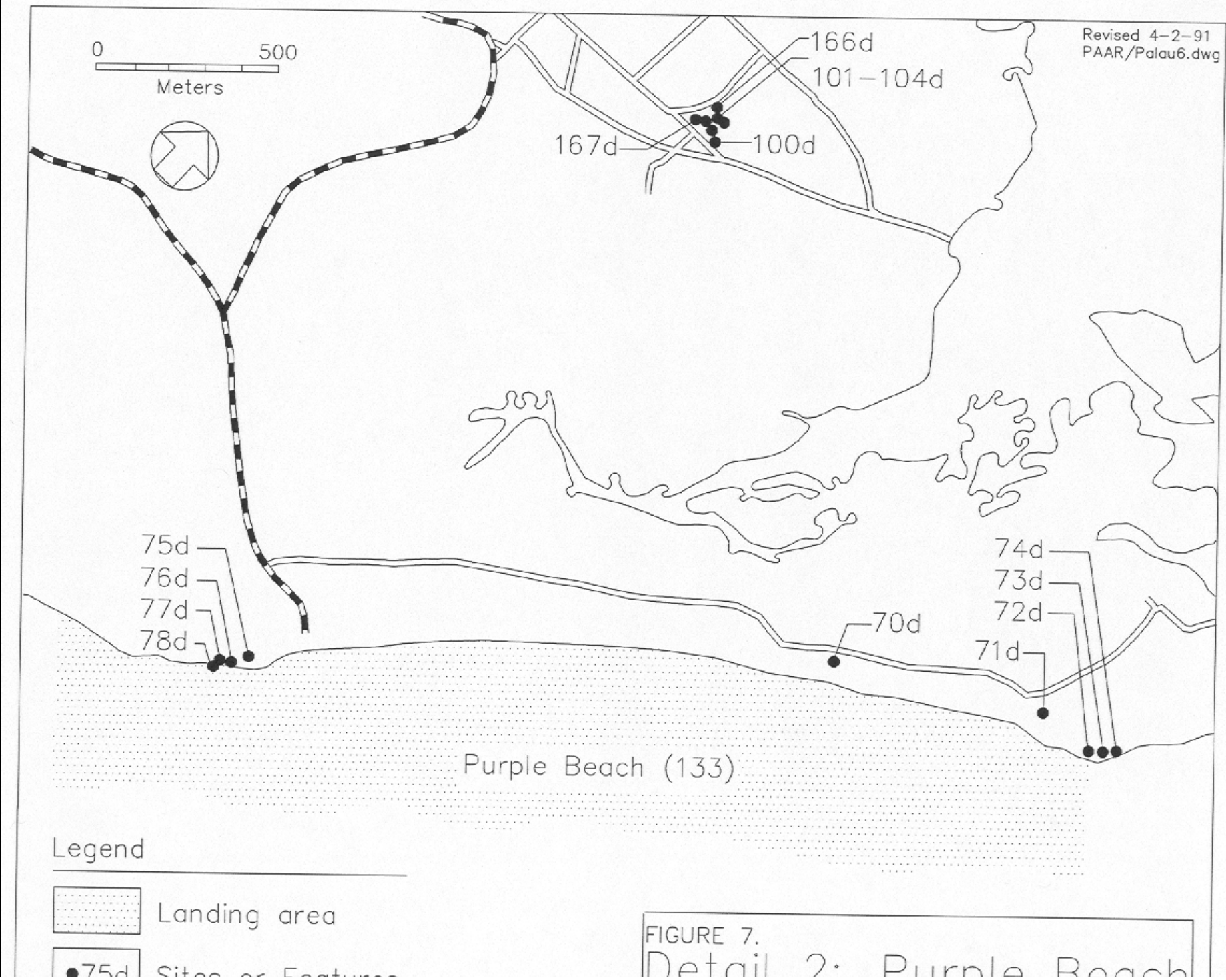


Figure 6. Detail 1. Scarlet Beach

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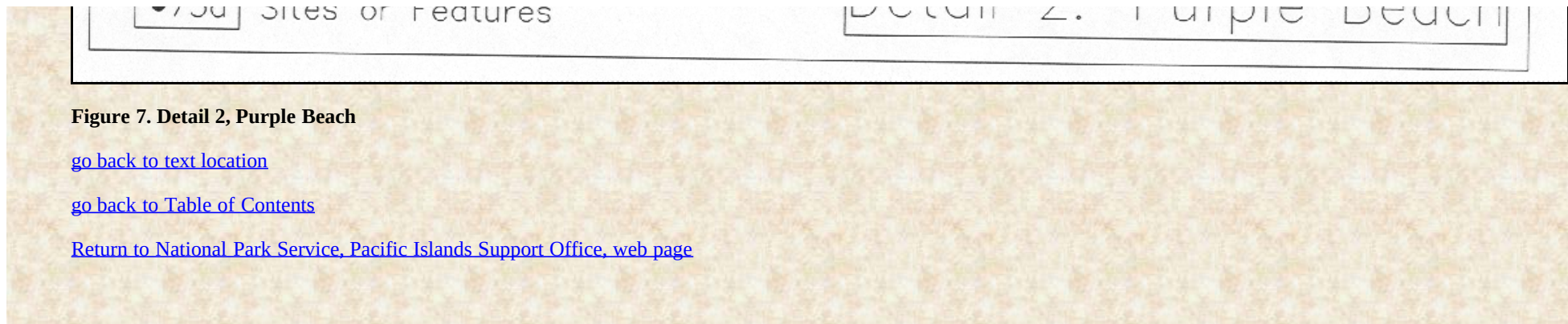


Figure 7. Detail 2, Purple Beach

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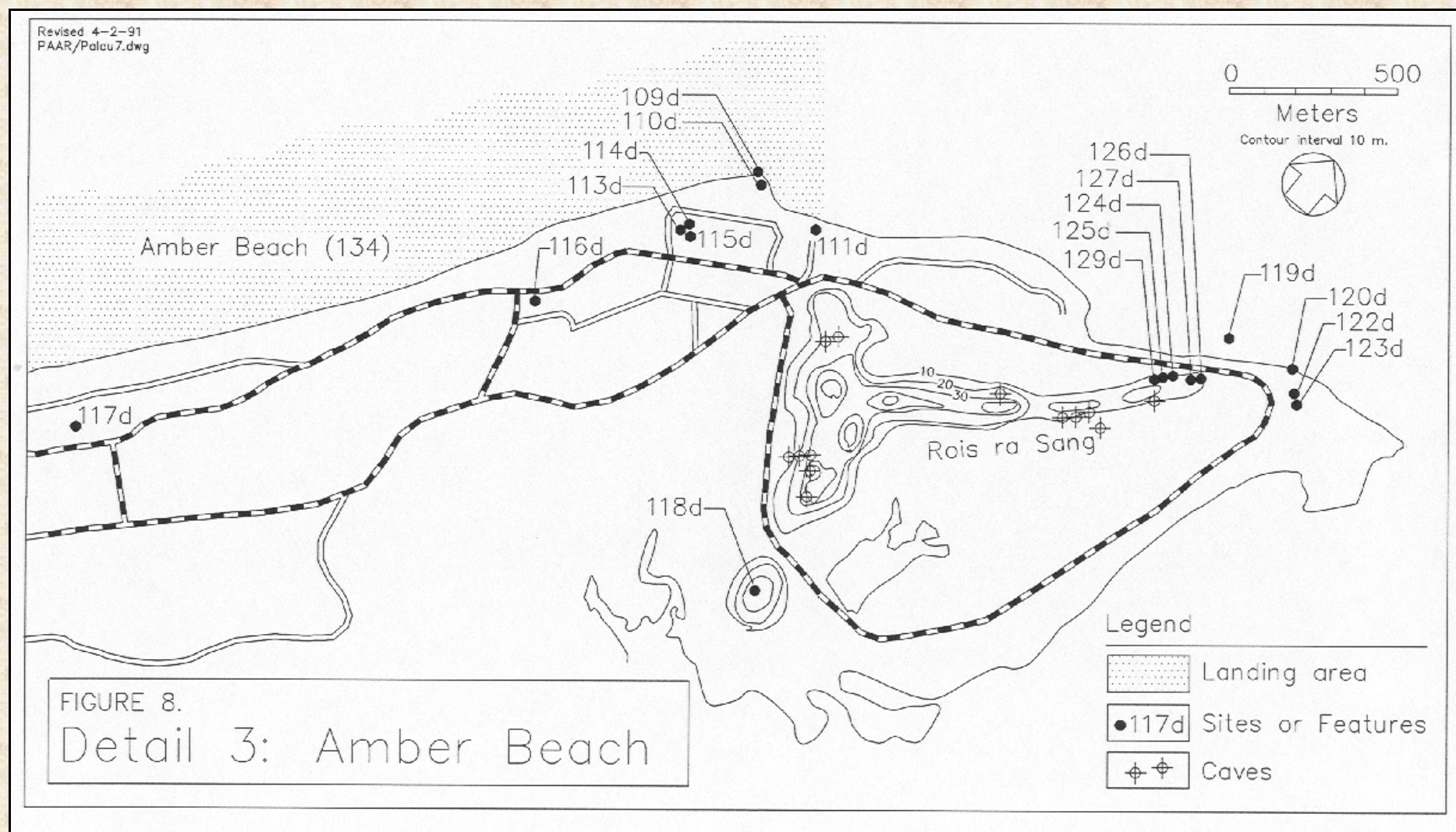


Figure 8. Detail 3., Amber Beach

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Figure 9

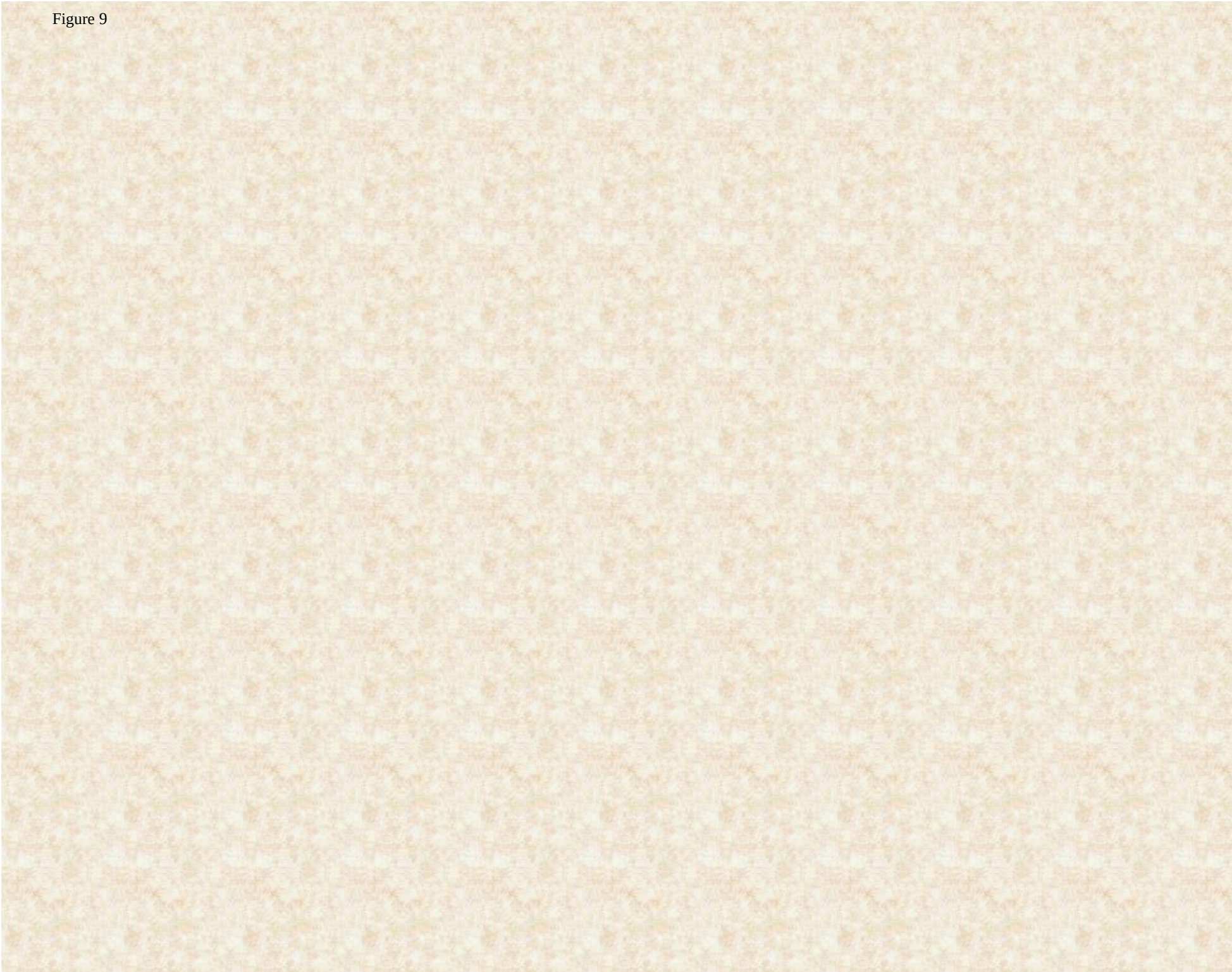
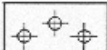
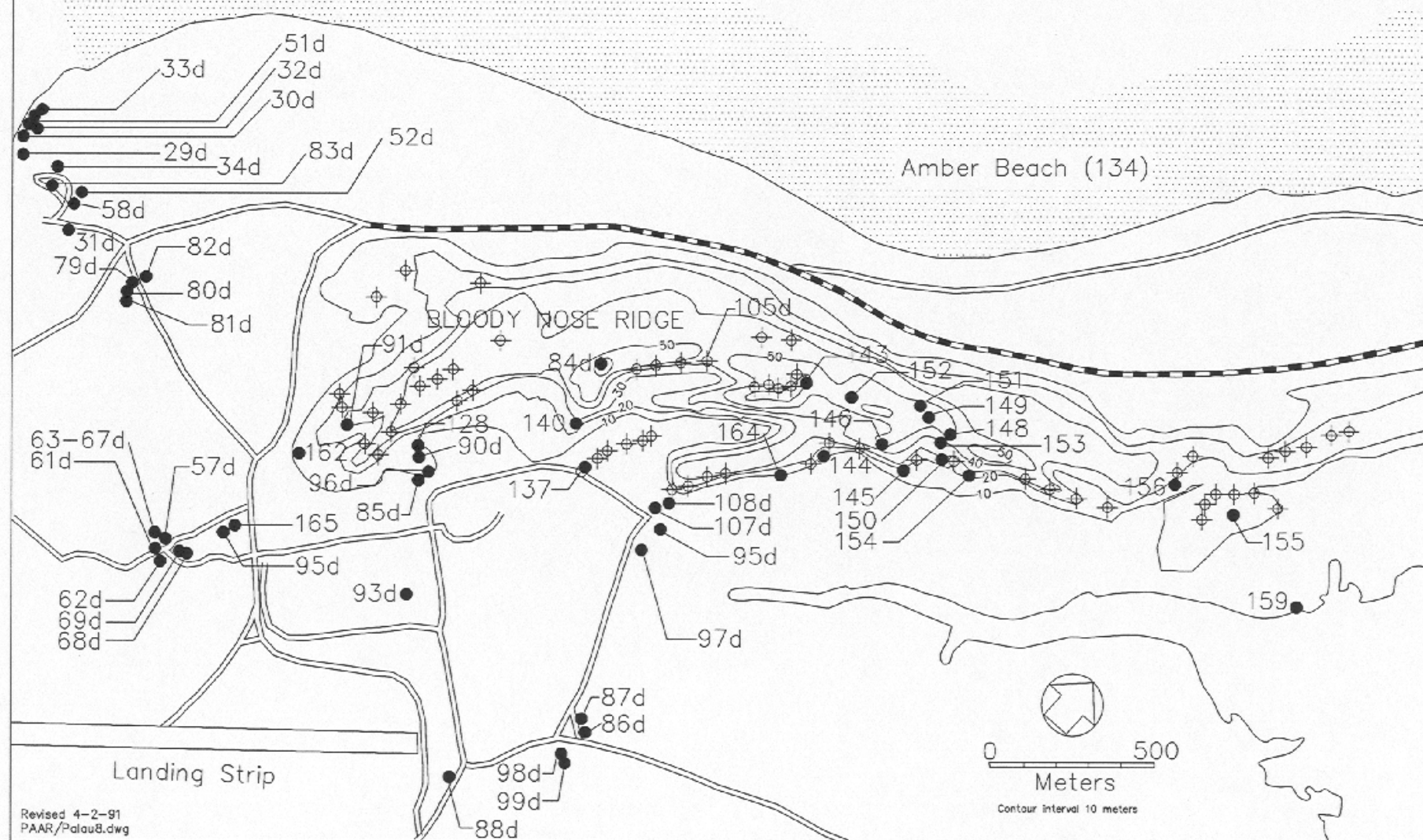


FIGURE 9.
Detail 4: Amber Beach
& Bloody Nose Ridge

Legend

-  Landing area
-  Sites or Features
-  Caves



Revised 4-2-91
PAAR/Palau8.dwg

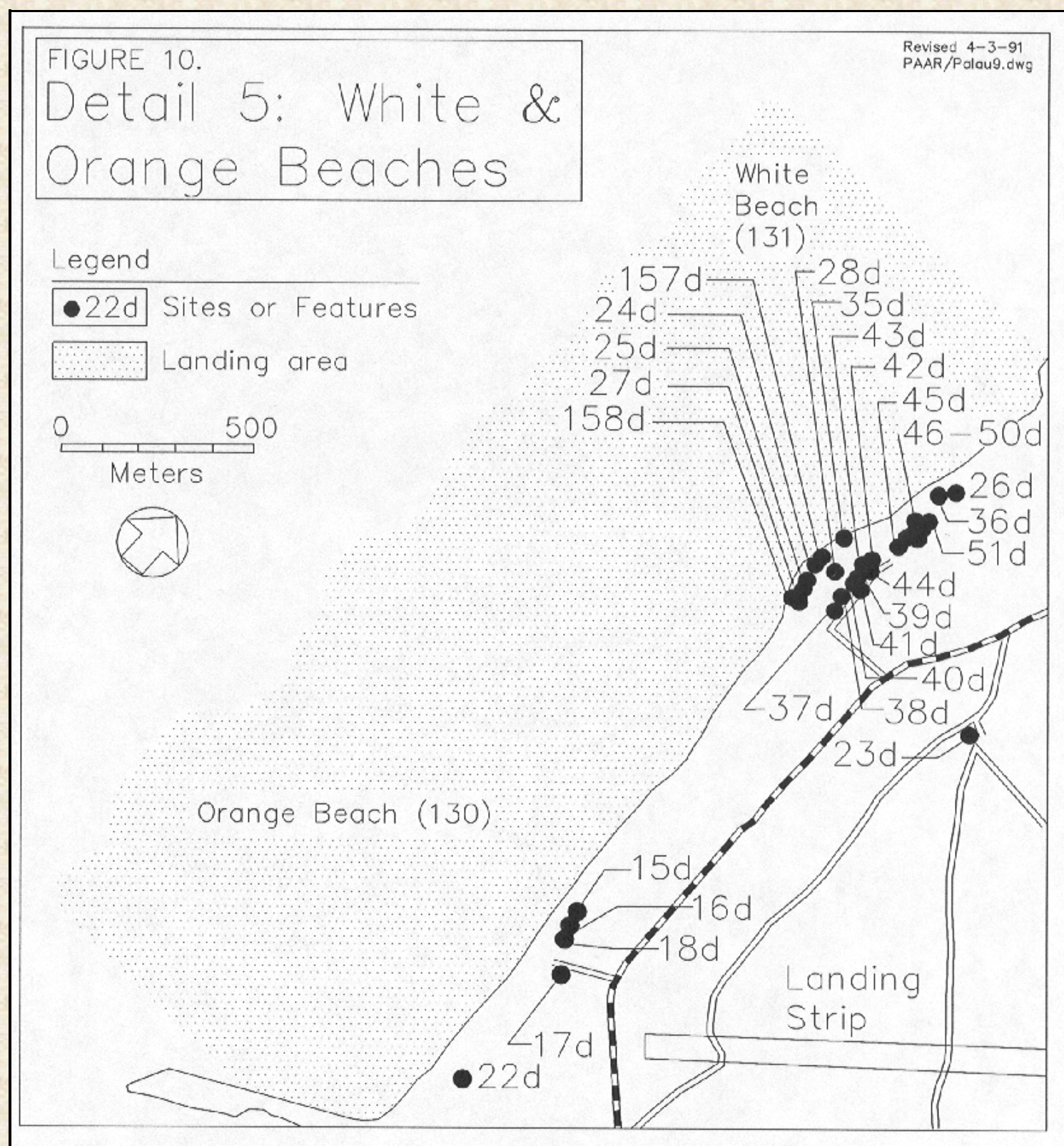
Detail 4. Amber Beach & Bloody Nose Ridge

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Figure 10



Detail 5. White and Orange Beaches

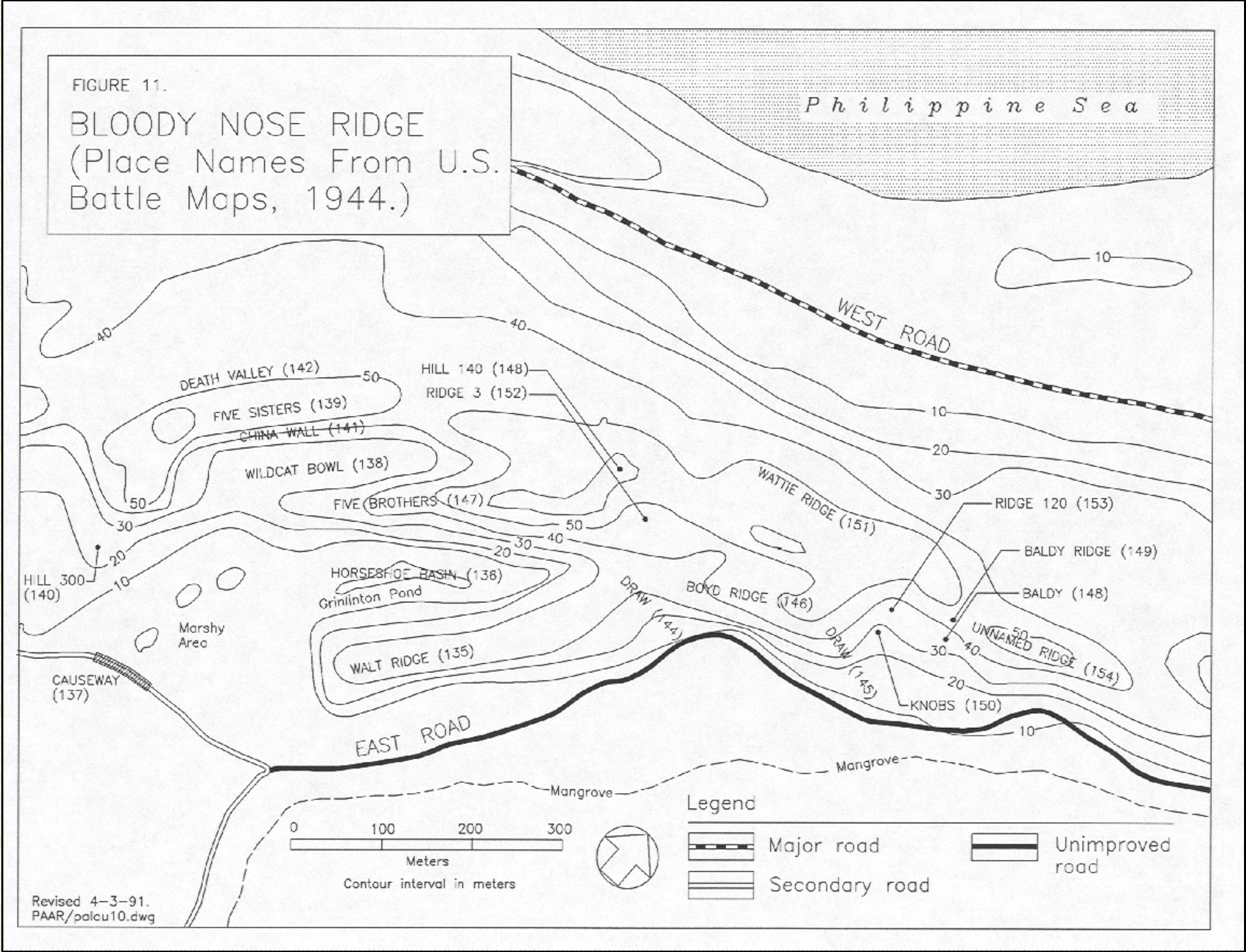
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Figure 11



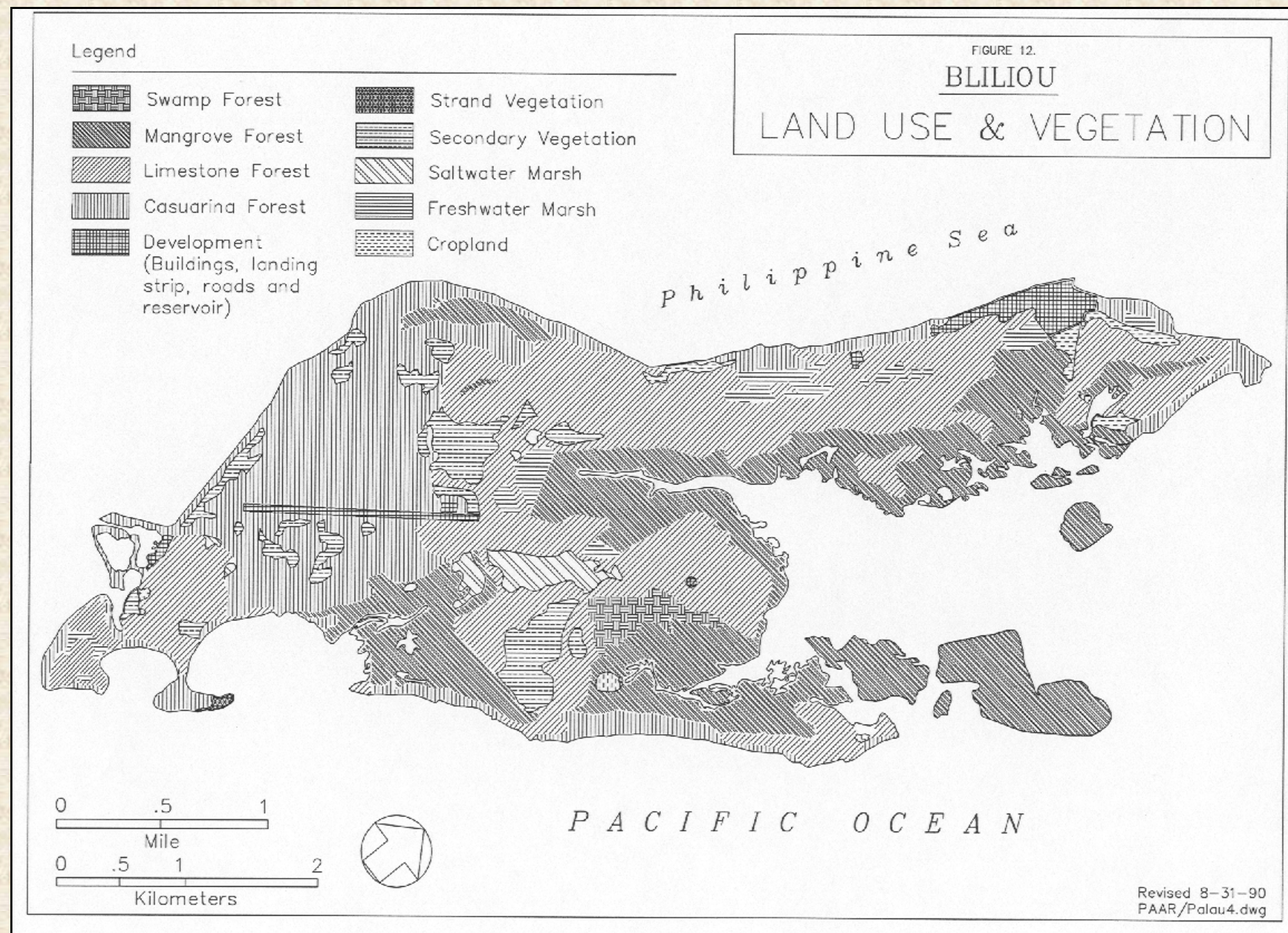
Bloody Nose Ridge

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Figure 12



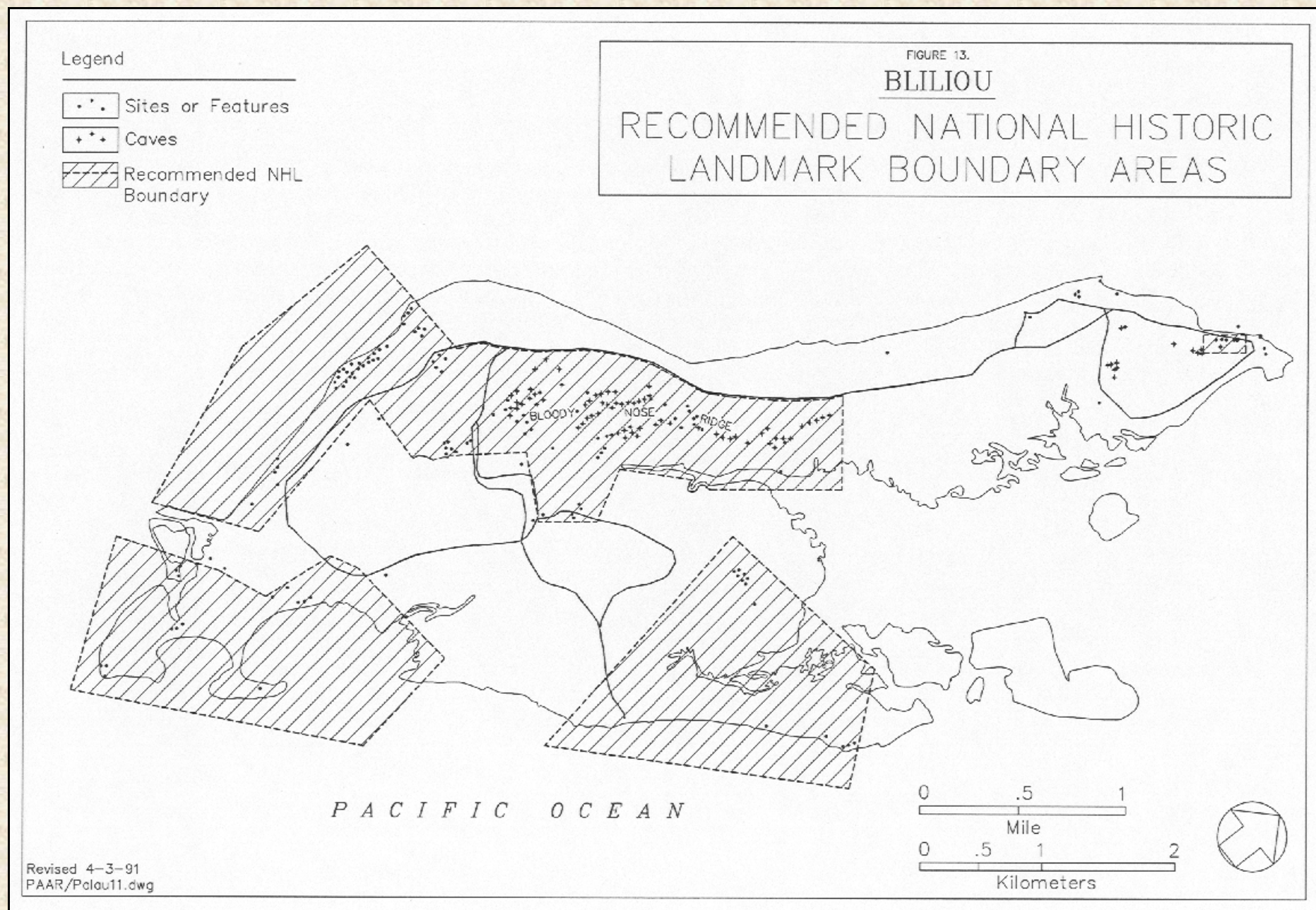
Land Use and Vegetation

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Figure 13



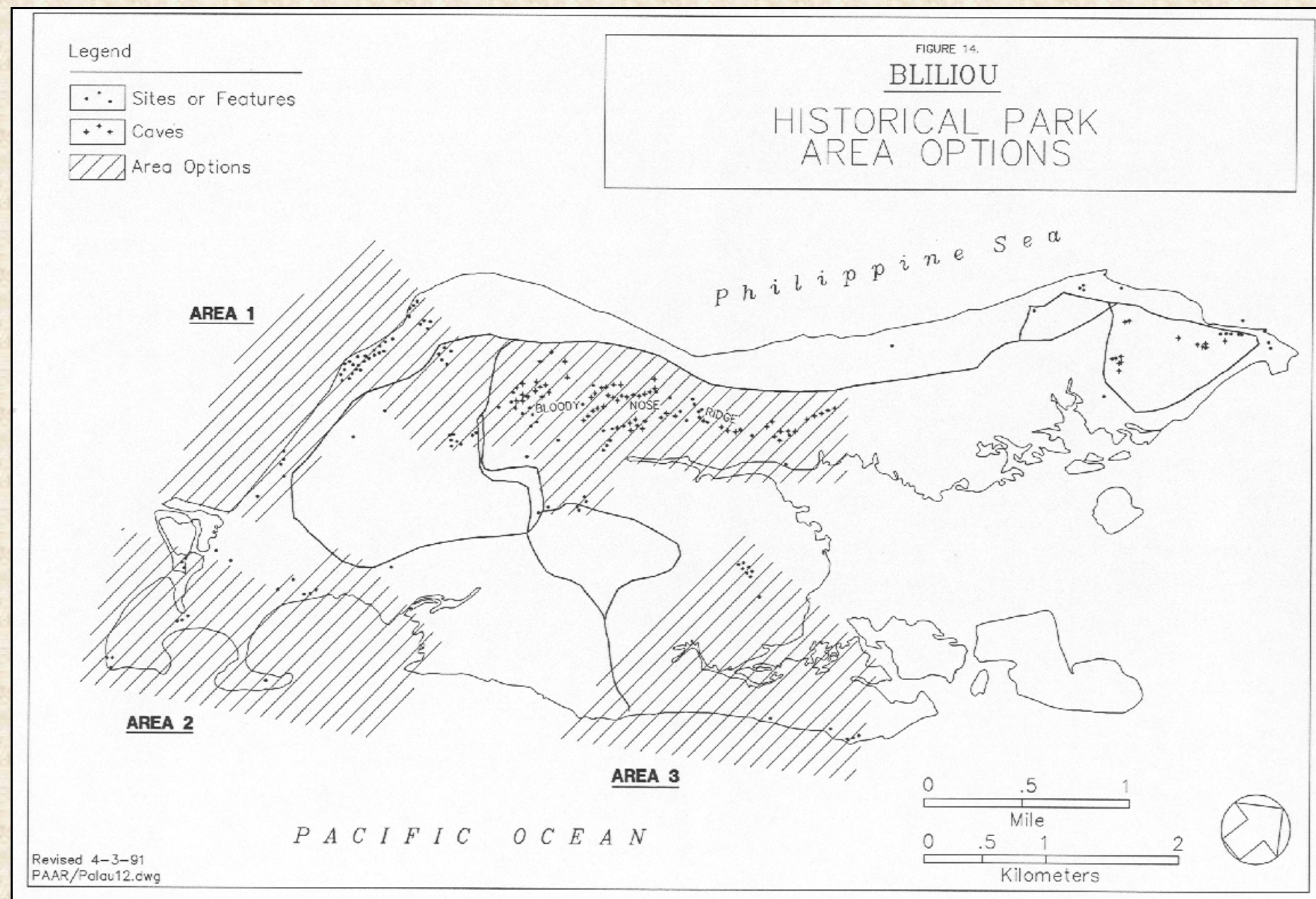
Recommended National Historic Landmark Boundary

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Figure 14



Historical Park Area Options

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Figure 15

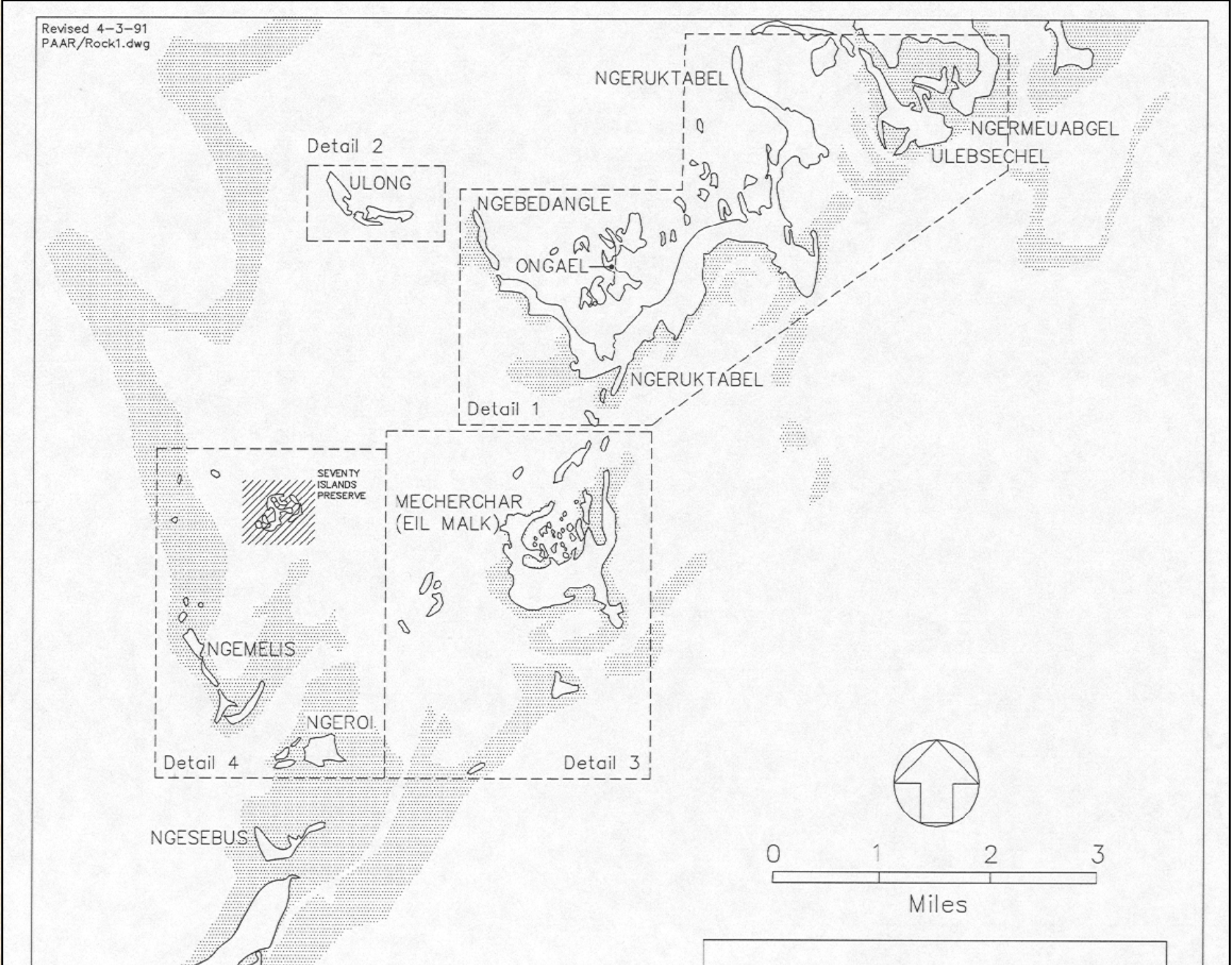




FIGURE 15.

ROCK ISLANDS

Rock Islands

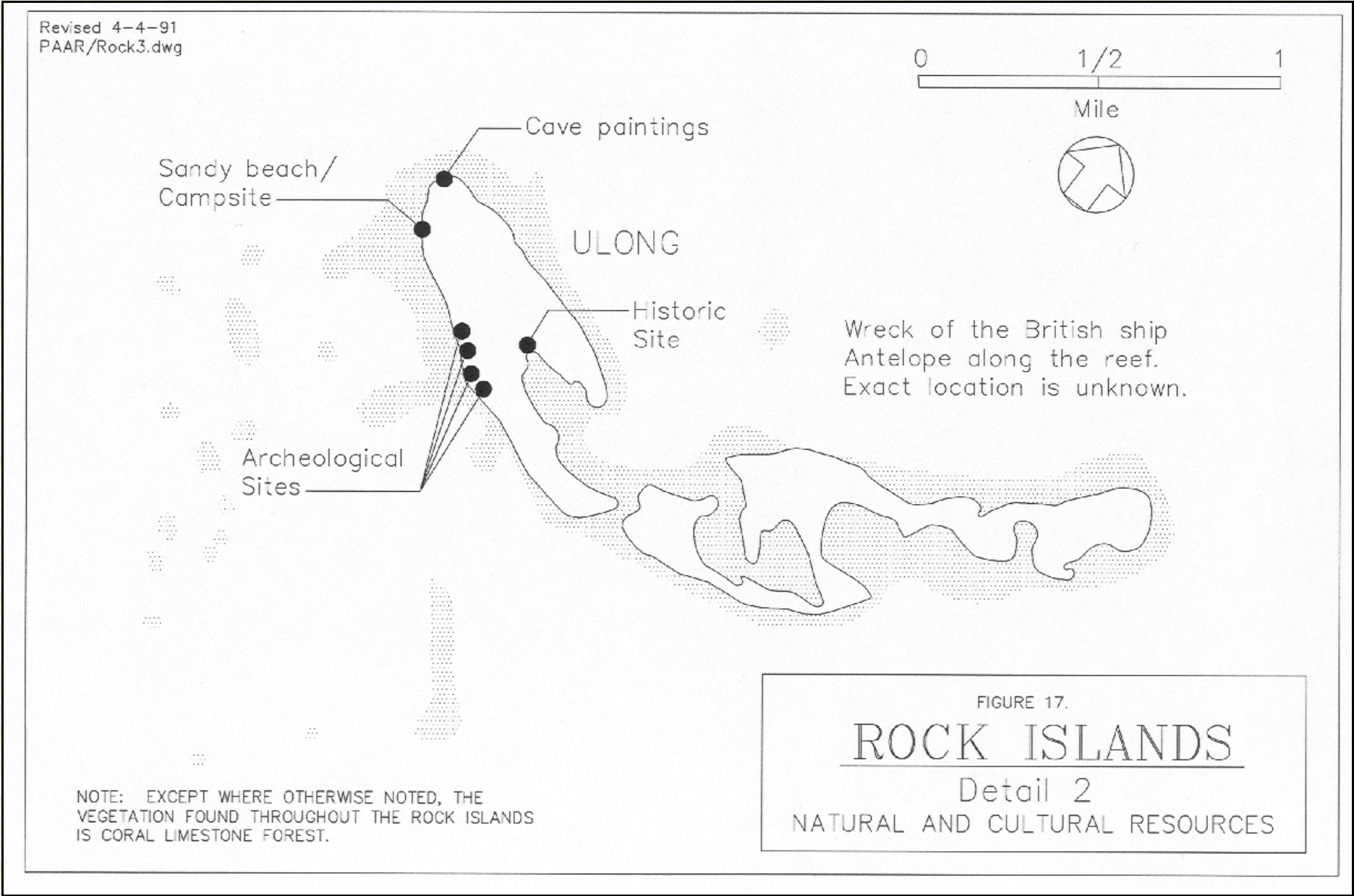
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Figure 17



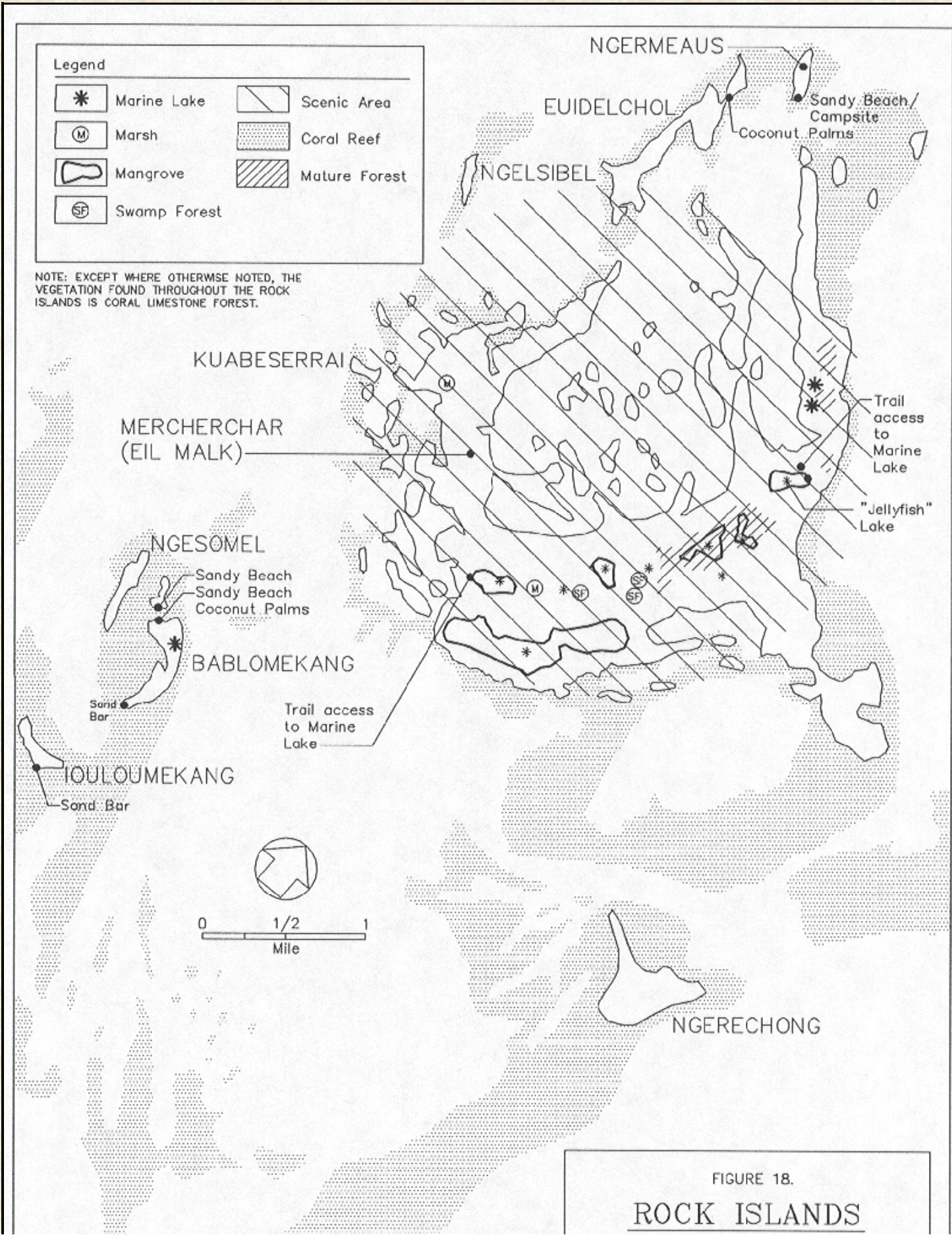
Detail 2. Rock Islands Resources.

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Figure 18





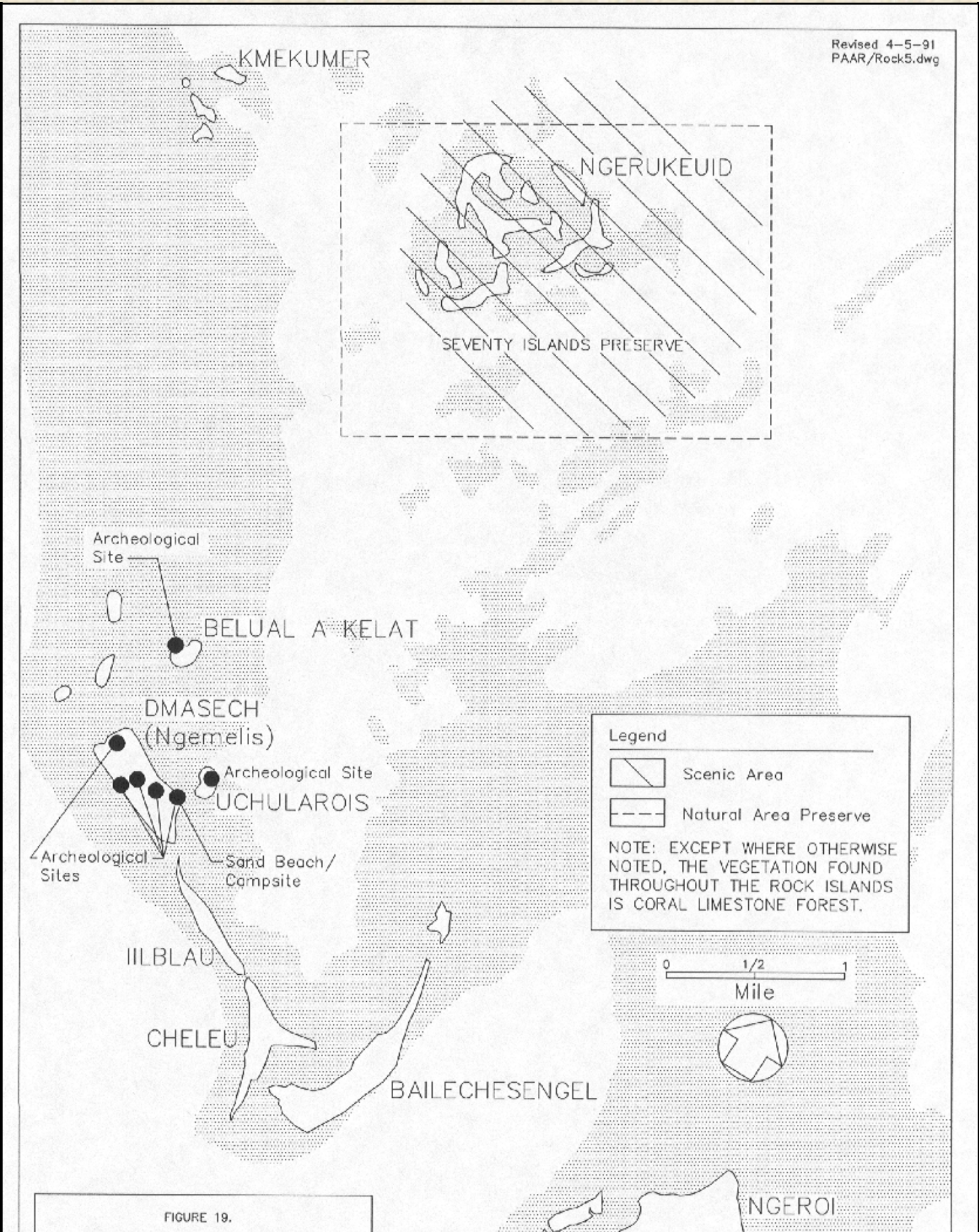
Detail 3. Rock Islands Resources.

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Figure 19



ROCK ISLANDS
Detail 4
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES



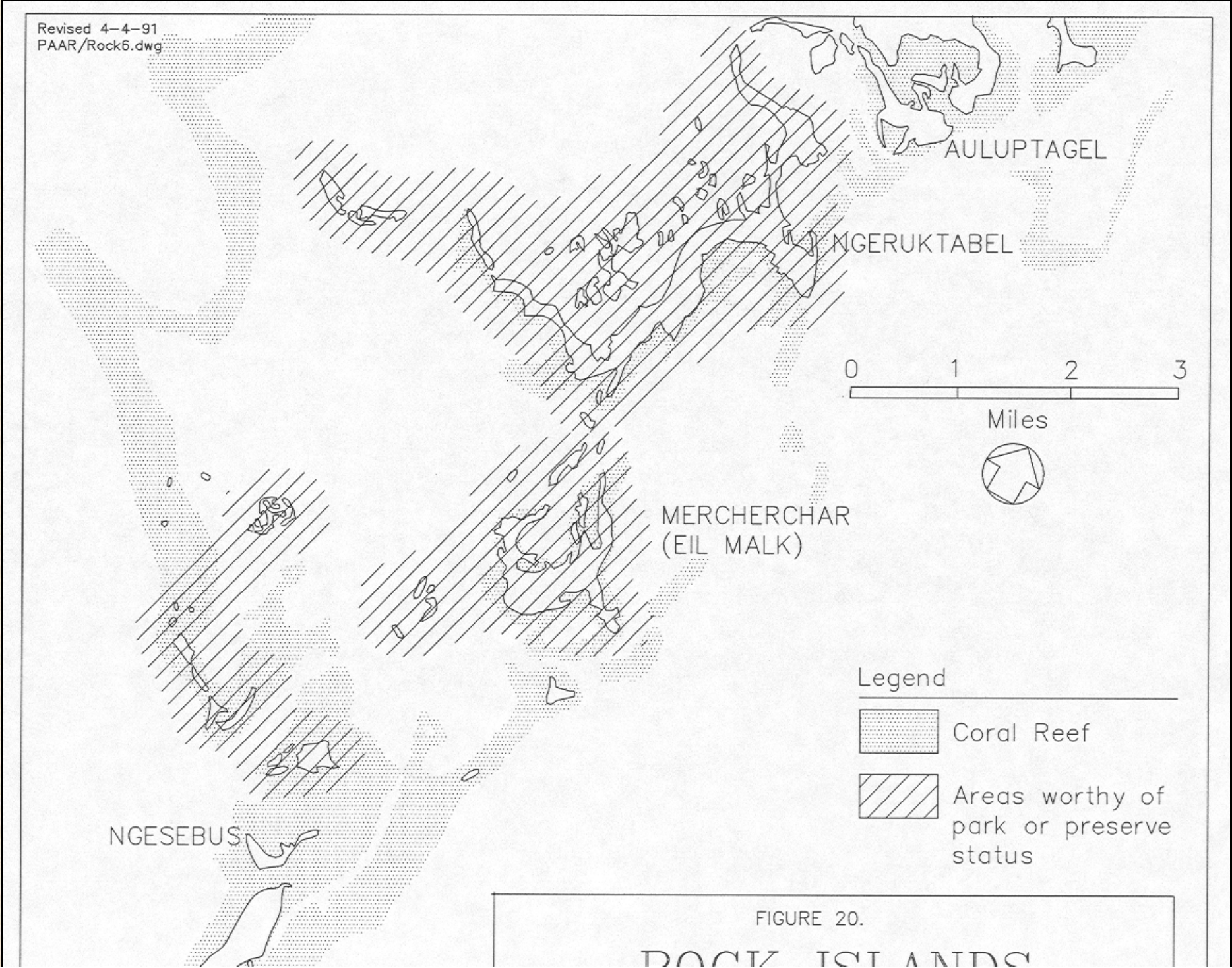
Detail 4. Rock Islands Resources.

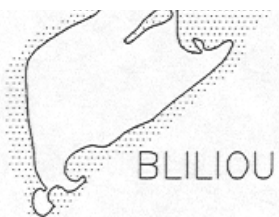
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Figure 20





ROCK ISLANDS

POSSIBLE PARK OR PRESERVE AREAS

Rock Islands Areas Worthy of National Park or Preserve Status

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Table A. Visitors to Palau, 1980-1989

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
All Visitors ¹	5,640	5,057	5,330	6,388	9,014	13,371	13,653	16,695	22,675	26,005
USA	2,222	1,676	1,782	1,989	2,532	3,214	3,747	3,747	4,205	4,821
Japan	2,894	2,650	2,721	3,026	3,969	6,968	6,567	6,924	10,818	11,633
Other ²	1,124	1,155	1,335	1,939	2,885	2,631	3,305	4,861	6,222	6,611
Tourists	4,516	3,902	3,995	4,449	6,129	10,740	10,348	11,834	16,453	19,394

¹ Includes visitor entries for business, employment, and religious purposes as well as tourists.

² Primarily from Europe and the Philippines.

Source: Monthly Report of Entries (Planning and Statistics Office), Division of Cultural Affairs, Republic of Palau

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Table B. Remaining Sites and Features ~ 1944 Invasion and Capture of Biliou

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
1d	70	4	Japanese pillbox with gun positions for 7.7 mm machine gun	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
2d	72	-	Mortar pit (Japanese)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
3d	89	14	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, containing two rice bowls and a projectile	Teliu		Y
4d	90	-	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, containing Japanese hand grenade (Model 97) and a number of mess kits	Teliu		Y
5d	91	-	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave	Teliu		Y
6d	100	-	Four U. S. pontoon barge tugs, Type 4C with intact screws and propellers ¹	Teliu	Sewei Clan	N
7d	150	-	Japanese tank farm with four of nine original fuel tanks shielded by low revetments	Teliu	Sewei Clan	Y
8d	NA	-	Carrier Aircraft Service Unit N4Q shop area (pads of Quonset huts and traces of camp)	Teliu	Sechedui Clan	N
9d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut pads -- probably remains of mess halls and office buildings	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan	N
10d	123	-	Three unfinished concrete bases for 127mm dual mount AA gun emplacements. Good condition.	Teliu	Sechedui Clan	Y
11d	73	-	Japanese shell damaged stone pillbox	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
12d	124	-	Two Japanese water tanks	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
13d	77	-	U. S. small pontoon barge (standard 7' x 3' cell)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	?
14d ²	74	-	Japanese steel pole anti-landing obstacles (feature not located by NPS)			Y
15d	76	-	Japanese concrete beach shelter	Teliu	Sewei Clan	Y
16d	101	-	Remains of 150 mm Japanese searchlight and platform	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan	Y
17d	67	6	American military cemetery, U.S.A. 81st Division and 1st Marine Division ¹	Teliu	Sewei Clan	N
18d	66	6	U. S. chapel building	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan	Y
19d	8	13	Meltelat 'L Btuul. Round	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan	Y

Table B

			four-gun Japanese blockhouse with metal embrasure shields, steel observation tower, ammo magazine intact			
20d	NA	-	U. S. 73rd Naval Construction Battalion camp -- numerous Quonset hut foundations	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan	N
21d ²	NA	-	U. S. Naval base #3252 remains -- a few Quonset hut pads (features not located by NPS)	Ngerdelolk		N
22d	NA	-	Repair facility remains for Naval base #3252	Teliu	Sewei Clan	N
23d	86	12	Japanese tank, type 95 HA GO, turret missing and tracks blown off.	Teliu	Edaruchel Clan	Y
24d	14	3	Japanese pillbox with 37 mm anti-tank gun	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
25d	20	3	Japanese anti-tank gun pillbox for 75 mm field piece (the 75 mm gun sits in water below pillbox)	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
26d	19	3	Japanese coral ridge gun positions and pillboxes	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
27d	17	3	Camouflaged Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
28d	18	3	Japanese defensive rifle and machine gun positions	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
29d	15	3	Japanese pillbox containing partially buried 75 mm gun	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
30d	21	3	Japanese pillbox, contains exploded machine gun barrel	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
31d	16	3	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm gun with pedestal	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
32d	24	3	Japanese shelter cave, composed of rebar and coral	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
33d	25	3	Japanese machine gun nest remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
34d	NA	3	U. S. Island Commander living area remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
35d	46	3	U. S. LVT personnel carrier buried in sand	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
36d	47	3	Japanese fuel drum emplacement	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
37d	22	3	Japanese cave, improved with rebar and narrow gauge rail	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
38d	26	3	Japanese cave at 30 m elevation on reverse slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
39d	28	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y

Table B

40d	29	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
41d	30	3	Japanese gun emplacement carved into coral	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
42d	32	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
43d	33	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
44d	34	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
45d	35	3	Japanese defense position in coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
46d	36	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
47d	37	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
48d	38	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
49d	39	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
50d	40	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
51d	41	3	Japanese 7.7 mm machine gun pillbox.	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
52d	42	3	Japanese 37 mm gun pillbox	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
53d	43	3	Japanese caves and rifle pits (not located by NPS)	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
54d	102	-	Japanese air raid shelter #1, half blown away (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
55d	103	-	Japanese air raid shelter #2, shielded with extra thickness (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
56d	104	-	Japanese air raid shelter #3, lacks extra shielding debris (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
57d	45	-	Japanese air raid shelter #4 with steel doors	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
58d	125	-	Japanese air raid shelter #5	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
59d	126	-	Japanese air raid shelter #6, partially reinforced with stone and concrete (exact location unknown)	Ngesias		Y
60d ²	127	-	Japanese air raid shelter #7, steel doors and windows are intact (not located by NPS)			Y
61d	44	-	Japanese Headquarters Building (official U. S. flag raising here September 27, 1944)	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
62d	106	-	Japanese radio tower base supports	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
63d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
64d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
65d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
66d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
67d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
68d	128	-	Two Japanese water	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y

Table B

			cisterns			
69d	107	-	Japanese water tank	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
70d	80	-	Two Japanese concrete radio tower foundations	Ngerdelolk		Y
71d	NA	-	American Quonset hut pads (Seabee camp)	Ngerdelolk		N
72d	82	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
73d	81	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
74d	83	-	Japanese concrete tetrahedrons	Ngerdelolk		Y
75d	78	-	Japanese 120 mm gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
76d	84	-	Japanese coconut log/concrete machine gun pillbox, triangle shaped	Ngerdelolk		Y
77d	85	-	Japanese pillbox cut in coral	Ngerdelolk		Y
78d	88	-	Japanese 25 mm anti-tank pillbox	Ngerdelolk		Y
79d	108	-	Japanese fuel storage bunker (area littered with U. S. helmets and canteens)	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
80d	129	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
81d	130	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
82d	131	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan	Y
83d	NA	-	American housing area, clothesline poles	Ngerchol	Dmiu Clan	N
84d	23	-	Bloody Nose Ridge monument ¹	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	N
85d	12	-	U. S. LVT(A)1 with 37mm gun	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
86d	13	8	U. S. LVT(A)4 with 75 mm howitzer	Ngesias		Y
87d	75	8	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with offside loading	Ngesias		Y
88d	92	-	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with rear ramp	Ngesias		Y
89d	NA	-	U. S. LVT personnel carrier with rear ramp (not located by NPS)	(Ngedebus Is.)		Y
90d	9	1	Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun in cave.	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
91d	109	-	Japanese concrete lined storage cave with eight ammo caissons	Ngesias		Y
92d	NA	-	American command headquarters, two Quonset huts (exact location	Ngesias		N

Table B

			unknown)			
93d	132	-	Japanese power plant (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
94d	133	-	Japanese shop and barracks area (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
95d	134	-	Japanese bomb-proof power plant	Ngesias		Y
96d	111	-	Japanese prisoner of war compound	Ngesias		Y
97d	112	-	Japanese stockade for U. S. prisoners (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
98d	93	-	U. S. LCVT sitting in pond partially submerged	Ngesias		Y
100d	113	-	Japanese radio direction finder/administrative building	Ngerdelolk		Y
101d	135	-	Japanese powerhouse	Ngerdelolk		Y
102d	137	-	Japanese water cistern	Ngerdelolk		Y
103d	138	-	Japanese supply room	Ngerdelolk		Y
104d	139	-	Two Japanese water cisterns and open water tank	Ngerdelolk		Y
105d	11	-	Last Japanese command post caves	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y
106d	114	-	Amber Beach Japanese defensive works (not located by NPS)	Ngesias		Y
107d	115	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement	Ngerchol	Ngitchob Clan	Y
108d	142	-	U. S. bulldozer (from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit)	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
109d	116	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol		Y
110d	117	-	Japanese pillbox with ammo magazine	Ngerchol		Y
111d	118	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement for 75 mm gun	Ngerchol		Y
112d	119	-	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm caisson (not located by NPS)	Ngerchol		Y
113d	120	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement for 7.7 mm gun	Ngerchol		Y
114d	121	-	Japanese interisland radio station	Ngerchol		Y
115d	144	-	Japanese radio station oil storage building	Ngerchol		Y
116d	145	-	321st U. S. Regimental Combat Team monument (also called Wildcat Division memorial) ¹	Ngerchol		N

Table B

117d	146	-	Peleliu cemetery and Japanese monument ¹	Ngerchol		N
118d	95	-	Radar Hill Japanese defensive caves	Ngerchol		Y
119d	147	-	Remains of Japanese causeway to Ngedebus Isle	Ngerchol		Y
120d	148	-	Peleliu dock	Ngerchol		N
121d	149	-	U. S. pontoon barge (not located by NPS)	Ngerchol		?
122d	150	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol		Y
123d	151	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol		Y
124d	94	-	Japanese 1,000-man cave	Ngerchol		Y
125d	97	-	Japanese pillbox with gun mount pedestal and offset cover mount	Ngerchol		Y
126d	96	-	Japanese pillbox, overgrown and partially destroyed	Ngerchol		Y
127d	98	-	Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge and coral stone	Ngerchol		Y
128	10	-	Japanese man-made tunnel	Ngesias		Y
129d	99	-	Japanese phosphate plant foundation defensive strong point	Ngerchol		Y
130	65	5	Orange Beach	Teliu, Ngerkeyukl	Sewei Clan Bosaol Clan Edarnchel Clan	Y
131	7	3	White Beach	Teliu, Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
132	68	4	Scarlet Beach	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	Y
133	79	9	Purple Beach	Ngerdelolk		Y
134	122	-	Amber Beach	Ngerkeyukl, Ngerchol		Y
135	6	1	"Walt Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
136	3	1	"Horseshoe Basin" and pond	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
137	63	1	"Causeway"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
138	4	1	"Wildcat Bowl"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
139	1	1	"Five Sisters"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
140	48	1	"Hill 300"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
141	2	1	"China Wall"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
142	51	1	"Death Valley"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
143	50	1	"Hill 140"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y
144	59	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
145	60	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
146	49	1	"Boyd Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
147	5	1	"Five Brothers"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
148	55	1	"Baldy"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan	Y
149	56	1	"Baldy Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y
150	57	1	"Knobs"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
151	53	1	"Wattie Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan	Y

Table B

152	54	1	"Ridge 3"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
153	52	1	"Ridge 120"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
154	58	1	"unnamed ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
155	62	1	"Hill B"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
156	61	1	"Hill 100"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
157d	27	-	Japanese gun positions on top of promontory	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
158d	71	3	U. S. Marine transfer case with screw attached	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan	Y
159	31	7	U. S. Navy "Avenger" carrier-based torpedo bomber	Ngesias		Y
160	87	-	Japanese wheeled gun	Teliu	Ngesesuk Clan	Y
161	105	-	Scarlet Beach Japanese Memorial ¹	Teliu	Tikei Lineage	N
162	143	-	Japanese tower	Ngesias		Y
163	69	4	"Bloody Beach"	Teliu	Ngesesek Clan	Y
164	64	2	The local "last command post"	Ngesias	Ngitchob Clan	Y
165d	110	-	Japanese diesel fuel storage bunker	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	Y
166d	140	-	Japanese bathhouse	Ngerdelolk		Y
167d	141	-	Japanese latrine	Ngerdelolk		Y
168d	NA	-	Japanese shrine	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N
169d	136	-	U. S. M4A6 Sherman tank	(Ngedebus Is.)		Y
170	NA	15	Gun emplacements	(Ngedebus Is.)		Y

¹ Not of the historic period, but prioritized by NPS.

² Not on map.

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Table C. PLANT COMMUNITIES OF BLILIOU.

Species	U. S. Name	Palauan Name
---------	------------	--------------

The Littoral Strand

Rock Strand

major species:

<i>Boerhavia repens</i> L.		
<i>Cyperus polystachyos</i> Rottb	a sedge	
<i>Fimbristylis cymosa</i> R. Br.	a sedge	kerngimesked
<i>Ipomoea pes caprae</i> (L.)	beach morning glory	kebeasechol
<i>Ischaemum timorense</i> Kunth		tametamml
<i>Lepturus repens</i> (Forst. f) R.Br	a grass	
<i>Paspalum distichum</i> L	knotgrass or saltgrass	
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L		bungaruau ra sers

plants of lesser importance:

<i>Cyperus javanicus</i> Houtt	marsh cyperus	euais kederang
		babel aus
		kesekum
		esechesiding
<i>Portulaca australis</i> Endl		
<i>Capparis cordifolia</i> Lam		
<i>Cassytha filiformis</i> L.	giant dodder	techellela chull
<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> (L.) Gaertn.		embrert
* <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Bermuda grass	
<i>Cyrtandra palawensis</i> Schltr.		melkii
<i>Cyrtandra todaiensis</i> Kaneh.		melkii ra chelebachab

<i>Hedyotis biflora</i> (L.) Lam.		sechal kelelamalk
* <i>Leucas lavandulaefolia</i> m.		
<i>Vigna marina</i> (Burm.) Merr.	beach pea	keldellel

Sand Strand

major species:

<i>Boerhavia repens</i> L.		
<i>Canavalia rosea</i> (Sw.) DC.		keldellel
<i>Fimbristylis cymosa</i> R. Br	a sedge	kerngimesked
<i>Ipomoea pes caprae</i> (L.)	beach morning glory	kebeasechol
<i>Lepturus repens</i> (Forst. f) R.Br.	a grass	
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.		bungaruau ra sers
<i>Vigna marina</i> (Burm.) Merr.	beach pea	keldellel

plants of lesser importance:

<i>Ipomoea macrantha</i> R. & S.	moonflower	
<i>Sida fallax</i> Walp	broomweed	
<i>Stenotaphrum micranthum</i> (Desv.) Hubb	a grass	
<i>Euphorbia chamissonis</i> (Kl. & Gke.) Boiss		karkar
		kerkar
<i>Euphorbia gaudichaudii</i> Boiss.		
* <i>Euphorbia glomerifera</i> (Millsp.) Wheeler		karkar
		kerkar
* <i>Euphorbia neriifolia</i> L.		
<i>Euphorbia reineckeii</i> Pax?		
<i>Euphorbia reinwardtiana</i> Steud.		

The Littoral Scrub.

major species:

<i>Canavalia rosea</i> (Sw.) DC.		keldellel
<i>Wollastonia biflora</i> (L.) DC.	wedelia	ngesil
<i>Scaevola taccada</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.		korrai
		kirrai

		railechol
<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.) Roxb.	wait a bit, nickernuts	tochedulik
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> L.	hau	ermall
<i>Hernandia sonora</i> L.	jack in the box tree	doko
<i>Ipomoea pes caprae</i> (L.)	beach morning glory	kebeasechol
<i>Vigna marina</i> (Burm.) Merr.	beach pea	keldellel
<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> (L.) Kurz	barringtonia	bduul
<i>Pisonia grandis</i> R. Br.		mesbesibech
<i>Ficus copiosa</i> Steud.		<i>Ficus copiosa</i> Steud.
<i>Ficus sagitta</i> Vahl		
<i>Ficus senffiana</i> Warb.		
<i>Ficus tinctoria</i> Forst. f.		oseked
<i>Ficus</i> sp.		uosech ra rechelid
<i>Alyxia palauensis</i> Mgf.		
<i>Sophora tomentosa</i> L.	silver bush	dudurs

plants of lesser importance:

<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> (L.) Gaertn.		emrert
<i>Pemphis acidula</i> Forst.		ngi
<i>Desmodium umbellatum</i> (L.) DC	beggar's lice	balbeluu
<i>Premna obtusifolia</i> R. Br.		osem
<i>Colubrina asiatica</i> (L.) Brongn.		drikel
		ongaitong
<i>Allophylus timoriensis</i> (DC.) Bl		ebeludes
<i>Acalypha amentacea</i> Roxb.		klekel

The Mangrove Forest.

major species:

<i>Rhizophora apiculata</i> Bl.	mangrove	bngaol
<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> Lam.	mangrove	tebechel

plants of lesser importance:

<i>Scirpodendron ghaeri</i> (Gaertn.) Merr.		loloi
<i>Nypa fruticans</i> Wurmb	nipa palm	toechel

Table C

<i>Pandanus kanehirae</i> Mart.		buuk
<i>Pandanus macrojeanneretia</i> Mart.	hala	ongor
		ertoc~het
<i>Pandanus palawensis</i> Mart.	hala	ongor
<i>Pandanus peliliuensis</i> Kaneh.	hala	ongor
<i>Pandanus tectorius</i> Park	hala	ongor
<i>Cynometra ramiflora</i> L.		kalengui
		kelengui
		ketenguit
<i>Dalbergia candenatensis</i> (Dennst.) Prain		iult
<i>Dalbergia palauensis</i> Hosok.		yut
<i>Derris trifoliata</i> Lour.		kemokem
<i>Xylocarpus granatum</i> Koen.	cannonball tree	meduulokebong
<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i> L.	poison mangrove	ias
<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Sol. ex Correa	milo	
<i>Heritiera littoralis</i> Dry.	looking glass tree	ebibech
<i>Pemphis acidula</i> Forst.		ngis
<i>Bruguiera gymnorhiza</i> (L.) Lam.	oriental mangrove	denges
		kodenges
<i>Ceriops tagal</i> (Perr.) C. B. Rob.		biut
<i>Sonneratia alba</i> J. E. Sm.		urur
<i>Lumnitzera littorea</i> (Jack) Voigt		ngemoel
		mekekad
<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> (L.) Kurz	barringtonia	bduul
<i>Barringtonia racemosa</i> (L.) Spreng.		koranges
<i>Avicennia marina</i> (Forsk.) Vierh.		
<i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> (L.) Gaertn.		emrert
<i>Dolichandrone spathacea</i> (L. f.) K. Schum.		rriu
<i>Acanthus ebracteatus</i> Vahl		kollil
<i>Scyphiphora hydrophyllaceae</i> Gaertn.		kuat

The Coastal Forest

major tree species:

<i>Casaurina litorea</i> L.	ironwood	ngas
<i>Diospyros ferrea</i> (Willd.) Bakh.		
<i>Erythrina variegata</i> L.	indian coral tree	roro
<i>Barringtonia asiatica</i> (L.) Kurz	barringtonia	bduul
<i>Intsia bijuga</i> (Colebr.) O. Ktze.	ifil	dort
<i>Terminalia catappa</i> L.	false kamani, tropical almond	miich
<i>Calophyllum inophyllum</i> L.	true kamani	btaches

less important tree species:

<i>Ficus</i> sp.		uosech ra rechelid
<i>Guettarda speciosa</i> L.		belau
<i>Hernandia sonora</i> L.	jack in the box tree	doko
<i>Calophyllum pelewense</i> P. F. Stevens (ined.)		
<i>Calophyllum soulattri</i> Burm. f.		olbtaches
<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i> L	hau	ermall
* <i>Inocarpus fagifer</i> (Park.) Fosb.	tahitian chestnut	keam
		boui
<i>Phalera nisidai</i> Kaneh.		ongael
		delalaka
<i>Psychotria hombroniana</i> (Baill.) Fosb.	limestone forest tree	bkau
<i>Sterculia palauensis</i> Kaneh.		

vines

<i>Alyxia palauensis</i> Mgf.		
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The Coral Limestone Ridge Forest.

* <i>Ficus carica</i> L.	fig	uosech
<i>Ficus copiosa</i> Steud.		uosech
<i>Ficus microcarpa</i> L. f	chinese banyan	lulk
<i>Ficus prolixa</i> Fost. f.	banyan	lulk
<i>Ficus saffordii</i> Merr.	banyan	lulk
<i>Ficus sagitta</i> Vahl		

Table C

<i>Ficus senffiana</i> Warb.		
<i>Ficus tinctoria</i> Forst. f.		oseked
<i>Ficus</i> sp.		uosech ra rechelid
<i>Pisonia grandis</i> R. Br.		mesbesibech
		emoi
<i>Pisonia umbellifera</i> (Forst.) Seem.		udeuidar bekai
<i>Canarium hirsutum</i> Willd.		mesecheues
* <i>Canarium indicum</i> L.		
* <i>Canarium luzonicum</i> (Bl.) A. Gray		
* <i>Canarium vulgare</i> Leenh.		mesecheues
<i>Canarium</i> sp.		
<i>Aglaia palauensis</i> Kaneh.		
<i>Macaranga carolinensis</i> Volk.		bedel
<i>Semecarpus venenosus</i> Volk.	Poison Tree	tonget
<i>Rhus taitensis</i> Guill.	sumac	eues
<i>Alphitonia carolinensis</i> Hosok.		elebiob
		elebiong
<i>Elaeocarpus joga</i> Merr.	blue fig	dekemerir
<i>Elaeocarpus rubidus</i> Kaneh.		dekemerir?
* <i>Eugenia aquea</i> Burm. f.	water apple	edebsachel
<i>Eugenia javanica</i> Lam.		
<i>Eugenia nitida</i> Korth.		
<i>Eugenia palauensis</i> Kaneh.		
<i>Eugenia reinwardtiana</i> (Bl.) DC.		kesiil
<i>Diospyros ferrea</i> (Willd.) Bakh.		
<i>Fagraea berteriana</i> A.Grayex Bentham		elelai
<i>Fagraea ksida</i> Gilg & Bened.		ksid

* not native to Palau

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TABLE D. BIRDS OF BLILIOU

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance *
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RESIDENT LAND BIRDS

Ixobrychus sinensis	Yellow bittern	Cheloteache	Uncommon
Egretta sacra	Pacific reef egret	Sechou	Common
Nycticorax caledonicus	Rufous night heron	Melabaob	Common
Anas superciliosa	Australian gray duck	Debar	Rare
Megapodius laperouse	Mironesian megapode	Belkai	Uncommon
Gallus gallus	Red jungle fowl	Malkureome	Common
Rallina eurizonoides	Slaty-legged crane	Ulerratel	Uncommon
Rallus philippensis	Banded rail	Terriid	Abundant
Poliolimnas cinereus	White-browed rail	Sngorech	Uncommon
Gallinula chloropus	Common moorhen	Debar	Rare
Porphyrio porphyrio	Purple swamp hen	Uek	Uncommon
Cloenas nicobarica	Nicobar pigeon	Laib	Uncommon
Gallicolumba canifrons 1	Palau ground dove	Omekrengukl	Rare
Ptilinopus pelewensis 1	Palau fruit dove	Biib	Abundant
Ducula oceanica	Micronesia pigeon	Belochel	Common
PyrroglauX podargina	Palau owl	Chesuch	Common
Caprimulgus indicus	Jungle nightjar	Chebachab	Uncommon
Collocalia vanikorensis	Vanikoro swiftlet	Chesisekiaid	Abundant
Halcyon cinnamomina	Micronesia kingfisher	Cherosech	Common
Halcyon chlorus	Collared kingfisher	Tengadidik	Common
Coracina tenuirostris	Cicadiabird	Kinidukall	Uncommon
Colluricincla tenebrosa	Palau morningbird	Tutau	Common
Myiagra erythrops 1	Palau flycatcher	Charmelachull	Common
Rhipidura lepida	Palau fantail	Melimdelebtob Chesisirech on Peleliu	Common
Cettia annae	Palau bushwarbler	Wuul	Common
Aplouis opaca	Micronesia starling	Kinid	Abundant
Myzomela cardinalis	Cardinal honeyeater	Chesisebangiau	Common
Zosterops cinereus	Dusky white-eye	Chetitalial	Abundant
Zosterops conspicillatus	Bridled white-eye	Charmbedl	Common
Megazosterops palauensis 1	Palau greater white-eye	Charmbedel	Common

Table D. Birds

BREEDING SEABIRDS

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance *
Phaetou lepturus	White-tailed tropicbird	Dudek	Common
Phalacrocorax melanoleucos	Little pied cormorant	Deroech	Common
Fregata minor	Great frigate bird	Kedam	Abundant
Fregata ariel	Lesser frigate bird	Kedam	Common
Thalasseus bergii genus?	Crested tern	Roall	Common
Sterna sumatrana	Black-naped tern	Kerkirs	Common
Anous stolidus	Common noddy brown?	Mechadelbedaoch	Abundant
Anous minutus	Black noddy	Bedaoch	Abundant
Gygis alba	White tern fairy?	Sechosech	Common

MIGRATORY BIRDSæ (Migrate through or to Palau, generally in winter months only)

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance *
Egretta intermedia	Intermediate egret	Sechou	Uncommon
Bubulcus ibus	Cattle egret	Keremial, Schou	Common
Egretta garzetta	Little egret	Sechou	Uncommon
Pluvialis dominica	Lessor golden plover	Derariik	Common
Tringa glareola	Wood sandpiper		Common
Heteroscelus brevipes	Gray-tailed tattler		Common
Numenius phaeopus	Whimbrel	Okak	Common
Arenaria interpres	Ruddy turnstone		Common
Actitis hypoleucos	Common sandpiper	Bengobaingukl	Common
Calidris ruficollis	Rufous-necked sandpiper stint?		Common
Cuculus saturatus	Oriental cuckoo	Charmudrenge	Uncommon
Hirundo rustica	Barn swallow	Tsubamer (Japanese)	Common

Motacilla flava	Yellow wagtail		Uncommon

Palau broadbill

*Relative Abundance

Abundant: Almost certain to be found in numbers within representative habitat. P1P

Common: A few individuals almost certain to be found within representative habitat.
Common migrants arrive annually in numbers. P1P

Uncommon: Not certain to be found within representative habitat. Uncommon migrants
arrive annually, but are generally seen only a few times during the year. P1P

Rare: Only a very limited population present. Rare migrants generally do not arrive
annually.

- 1 Endemic to Palau
- 2 Listed as endangered species

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Table E

TableE. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Area 1)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
14d	76	-	Japanese steel pole anti-landing obstacles	Ngesias	-	Y
15d	77	-	Japanese concrete beach shelter	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan - 165	Y
16d	102	-	Remains of 150 mm Japanese searchlight and platform	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan - 165	Y
17d	68	6	American military cemetery, U.S.A. 81st Division and 1st Marine Division	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 166	N
18d	67	6	U. S. chapel building	Teliu	Bosaoli Clan - 165	Y
21d	-	-	U. S. Naval base #3252 remains -- a few Quonset hut pads	Ngerdelolk	-	N
22d	-	-	Repair facility remains for Naval base #3252	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 166	N
23d	88	12	Japanese tank, type 95 HA GO. Turret missing and tracks blown off.	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
24d	14	3	Japanese pillbox with 37 mm anti-tank gun	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
25d	20	3	Japanese anti-tank gun pillbox for 75 mm field piece (the 75 mm gun sits in water below pillbox)	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
26d	19	3	Japanese coral ridge gun positions and pillboxes	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
27d	17	3	Camouflaged Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
28d	18	3	Japanese defensive rifle and machine gun positions	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
29d	15	3	Japanese pillbox containing partially buried 75 mm gun	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
30d	22	3	Japanese pillbox, contains exploded machine gun barrel	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
31d	16	3	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm gun with pedestal	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
32d	25	3	Japanese shelter cave, composed of rebar and coral	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
33d	26	3	Japanese machine gun nest remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
34d	NA	3	U. S. Island Commander living area remains	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
35d	47	3	U. S. LVT4A personnel carrier buried in sand	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
36d	48	3	Japanese fuel drum emplacement	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
37d	23	3	Japanese cave, improved with rebar and narrow gauge rail	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
38d	27	3	Japanese cave at 30 m elevation on reverse slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y

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39d	29	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
40d	30	3	Japanese cave on reserve slope	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
41d	31	3	Japanese gun emplacement carved into coral	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
42d	33	3	Japanese cave 32, Japense cave 33	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
43d	34	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
44d	35	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
45d	36	3	Japanese defense position in coral ridge	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
46d	37	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
47d	38	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
48d	39	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
49d	40	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
50d	41	3	Japanese cave	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
51d	42	3	Japanese 7.7 mm machine gun pillbox.	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
52d	43	3	Japanese 37 mm gun pillbox	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
53d	44	3	Japanese caves and rifle pits (exact location unknown)	Ngerkeyukl	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
54d	103	-	Japanese air raid shelter #1, half blown away (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
55d	104	-	Japanese air raid shelter #2, shielded with extra thickness (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
56d	105	-	Japanese air raid shelter #3, lacks extra shielding debris (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
57d	46	-	Japanese air raid shelter #4 with steel doors	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
58d	126	-	Japanese air raid shelter #5	Ngesias	Dmui Clan - 160	Y
59d	127	-	Japanese air raid shelter #6, partially reinforced with stone and concrete	Ngesias	-	Y
60d	128	-	Japanese air raid shelter #7, steel doors and windows are intact	Ngesias	-	Y
61d	45	-	Japanese Headquarters Building (official U. S. flag raising here September 27, 1944)	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
62d	107	-	Japanese radio tower base supports	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
63d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
64d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan	N

Table E

					- 164	
65d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
66d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
67d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	N
68d	129	-	Two Japanese water cisterns	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
69d	108	-	Japanese water tank	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
79d	109	-	Japanese fuel storage bunker (area littered with U. S. helmets and canteens)	Ngesias	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
80d	130	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	(3)?	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
81d	131	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	(3)?	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
82d	132	-	Foundation of Japanese fuel storage bunker	(3)?	Dmiu Clan - 160	Y
83d	NA	-	American housing area, clothesline poles	Ngerchol	Dmiu Clan - 160	N
84d	24	-	Bloody Nose Ridge monument	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	N
85d	12	-	Amphibious tank version of armored U. S. VT with 37mm guns	Ngesias	Uchelkumer Clan - 164	Y
86d	75	8	U. S. LVTA1 amphibious tank with 75 mm gun	Ngesias	-	Y
87d	78	8	U. S. LVT4A personnel carrier with offside loading	Ngesias	-	Y
88d	93	-	U. S. LVT4A personnel carrier with rear ramp	Ngesias	-	Y
90d	9	1	Japanese 200 mm anti-boat gun in natural cave. Best preserved example on island.	Ngesias	-	Y
91d	110	-	Japanese concrete lined storage cave with eight ammo caissons	Ngesias	-	Y
92d	NA	-	American command headquarters, two Quonset huts (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	N
93d	133	-	Japanese power plant (exact location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
94d	134	-	Japanese shop and barracks area (now taro patches)	Ngesias	-	Y
95d	135	-	Japanese bomb-proof power plant	Ngesias	-	Y
96d	112	-	Japanese prisoner of war compound	Ngesias	-	Y
97d	113	-	Japanese stockade for U. S. prisoners (location unknown)	Ngesias	-	Y
98d	94	-	U. S. LCVT sitting in pond partially submerged	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
104d	11	-	Last Japanese command	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan -	Y

Table E

			post caves		159	
105d	115	-	Amber Beach Japanese defensive works	Ngerchol	-	Y
106d	116	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement	Ngerchol	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
107d	141	-	U. S. bulldozer (from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit)	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
111d	120	-	Japanese pillbox, 20 mm caisson (exact location unknown)	Ngerchol	-	Y
115d	144	-	321st U. S. Regimental Combat Team monument (also called Wildcat Division memorial)	Ngerchol	-	N
127	10	-	Japanese man-made tunnel	Ngesias	-	Y
129	66	5	Orange Beach	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 166 Bosaol Clan - 165	Y
130	7	3	White Beach	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
132	80	9	Purple Beach	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
134	6	1	"Walt Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
135	3	1	"Horseshoe Basin" and pond	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
136	64	1	"Causeway"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
137	4	1	"Wildcat Bowl"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
138	1	1	"Five Sisters"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
139	49	1	"Hill 300"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
140	2	1	"China Wall"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
141	52	1	"Death Valley"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
142	51	1	"Hill 140"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan - 159	Y
143	60	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
144	61	1	"draw"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
145	50	1	"Boyd Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
146	5	1	"Five Brothers"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
147	56	1	"Baldy"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
148	57	1	"Baldy Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan - 159	Y
149	58	1	"Knobs"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
150	54	1	"Wattie Ridge"	Ngesias	Ngetpak Clan - 159	Y

Table E

151	55	1	"Ridge 3"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
152	53	1	"Ridge 120"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
153	59	1	"unnamed ridge"	Ngesias	Ngitchor Clan - 158	Y
154	63	1	"Hill B"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
155	62	1	"Hill 100"	Ngesias	Ngitecho Clan	Y
156d	28	-	Japanese gun positions on top of promontory high point	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
157d	72	3	U. S. Marine transfer case with screw attached	Ngerkeyukl	Edaruchel Clan - 162	Y
158	32	7	U. S. Navy "Avenger" carrier-based torpedo bomber	Ngesias	-	Y
161	142	-	Japanese tower	Ngesias	-	Y
163	65	2	The local "last command post"	Ngesias	-	Y
164d	111	-	Japanese diesel fuel storage bunker	Ngesias	-	Y

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Table F. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Unit 2)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
1d	69	4	Japanese pillbox with gun positions for 7.7 mm machine gun	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
2d	71	-	Motar pit (Japanese)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
3d	90	14	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, with two rice bowls and a projectile	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	Y
4d	91	-	Japanese (Boes ra Talkakl) cave, with Japanese hand grenade (Model 97) and a number of mess kits	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	Y
11d	72	-	Japanese shell damaged stone pillbox	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
12d	125	-	Two Japanese water tanks	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	Y
13d	75	-	U. S. small pontoon barge (standard 7x3 cell)	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 1969	?
19d	88	13	Meltelat 'L Btuul. Round four-gun Japanese blockhouse, excellent condition, only Japanese blockhouse constructed on Peleliu	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan - 168	Y
20d	NA	-	U. S. 73rd Naval Construction Battalion camp -- numerous Quonset hut foundations	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan - 168	N
131	67	4	Scarlet Beach	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 169	Y
159	89	-	Japanese wheeled gun	Teliu	Ngeskesuk Clan - 168	Y
160	106	-	Scarlet Beach Japanese Memorial	Teliu	Tikei Lineage - 169	N
162	68	4	"Bloody Beach"	Teliu	-	Y

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Table G. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Unit 3)

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
70d	80	-	Two Japanese concrete radio tower foundations	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
71d	NA	-	American Quonset hut pads (Seabee camp)	Ngerdelolk	-	N
72d	82	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
73d	81	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
74d	83	-	Japanese concrete tetrahedrons	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
75d	78	-	Japanese 120 mm gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
76d	84	-	Japanese coconut log/concrete machine gun pillbox, triangle shaped	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
77d	85	-	Japanese pillbox cut in coral	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
78d	87	-	Japanese 25 mm anti-tank pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
99d	114	-	Japanese radio direction finder/administrative building	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
100d	136	-	Japanese powerhouse	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
101d	138	-	Japanese water cistern	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
102d	139	-	Japanese supply room	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
103d	140	-	Two Japanese water cisterns and open water tank	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
165d	137	-	U. S. M4A6 Sherman tank	(Ngedebus Is.)	-	Y
166	NA	15	Gun emplacements	(Ngedebus Is.)	-	Y
167d	NA	-	Japanese shrine	Ngesias	-	N
168d	142	-	Japanese bathhouse	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
169d	143	-	Japanese latrine	Ngerdelolk	-	Y

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Table H. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins - Located Outside of Suggested Historical Park Boundary

Site Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
6d	101	-	Four U. S. pontoon barge tugs, Type 4C with intact screws and propellers	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	N
7d	151	-	Japanese tank farm with four of nine original fuel tanks shielded by low revetments	Teliu	Sewei Clan - 1966	Y
8d	NA	-	Carrier Aircraft Service Unit N 4Q shop area (pads of Quonset huts and traces of camp)	Ngerkeyukl	Sechedui Clain - 1967	N
9d	NA	-	U. S. Quonset hut pads -- probably remains of mess halls and office buildings	Ngerkeyukl	Ngeskesuk Clan - 1968	N
10d	124	-	Three unfinished concrete bases for 127mm dual mount AA gun emplacements. Good condition.	?	Sechedui Clan - 1967	Y
89d	NA	-	U. S. LVT3A personnel carrier with rear ramp and fitted	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
108d	118	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol	-	Y
109d	119	-	Japanese pillbox with ammo magazine	Ngerchol	-	Y
110d	120	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement for 75 mm gun	Ngerchol	-	Y
112d	122	-	Japanese oil drum emplacement for 7.7 mm gun	Ngerchol	-	Y
113d	123	-	Japanese interisland radio station	Ngerchol	-	Y
114d	144	-	Japanese radio station oil storage building	Ngerchol	-	Y
116d	146	-	Peleliu cemetery and Japanese monument	Ngerchol	-	N
117d	97	-	Radar Hill Japanese defensive caves	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
118d	147	-	Japanese causeway to Ngesebus Isle	Ngerchol	-	Y
119d	148	-	Peleliu dock	Ngerchol	-	N
121d	150	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol	-	Y
122d	151	-	Japanese pillbox	Ngerchol	-	Y
123d	96	-	Japanese 1,000-man cave	Ngerdelolk	-	Y

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124d	99	-	Japanese pillbox with gun mount pedestal and offset cover mount	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
125d	98	-	Japanese pillbox, overgrown and partially destroyed	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
126d	100	-	Japanese pillbox built into coral ridge and coral stone	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
128d	101	-	Japanese phosphate plant foundation, defensive strong point	Ngerchol	-	Y
133	124	-	Amber Beach	Ngerchol	-	Y
166	-	15	Gun emplacements	Ngerdelolk	-	Y

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Table H. List of Remaining Sites and Ruins Located within Suggested Historical Park Boundary (Unit 3)

Site/Ruin Number	NPS Priority	Local Priority	Brief Description	Village	Homestead	Historic Period
70d	80	-	Two Japanese concrete radio tower foundations	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
71d	NA	-	American Quonset hut pads (Seabee camp)	Ngerdelolk	-	N
72d	82	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
73d	81	-	Japanese machine gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
74d	83	-	Japanese concrete tetrahedrons	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
75d	78	-	Japanese 120 mm gun pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
76d	84	-	Japanese coconut log/concrete machine gun pillbox, triangle shaped	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
77d	85	-	Japanese pillbox cut in coral	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
78d	87	-	Japanese 25 mm anti-tank pillbox	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
99d	114	-	Japanese radio direction finder/administrative building	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
100d	136	-	Japanese powerhouse	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
101d	138	-	Japanese water cistern	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
102d	139	-	Japanese supply room	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
103d	140	-	Two Japanese water cisterns and open water tank	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
165d	137	-	U. S. M4A6 Sherman tank	(Ngedebus Is.)	-	Y
166	NA	15	Gun emplacements	(Ngedebus Is.)	-	Y
167d	NA	-	Japanese shrine	Ngesias	-	N
168d	142	-	Japanese bathhouse	Ngerdelolk	-	Y
169d	143	-	Japanese latrine	Ngerdelolk	-	Y

Table I. Birds of the Rock Islands

RESIDENT LAND BIRDS

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Yellow bittern	Cheloteachel	Uncommon
<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Rufous night heron	Melabaob	Common
<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Pacific reef-heron	Sechou	Common
<i>Megapodius laperouse</i> ¹	Mironesian megapode	Belkai	Uncommon
<i>Rallina eurizonoides</i>	Slaty-legged crake	Ulerratel	Uncommon
<i>Cloenas nicobarica</i>	Nicobar pigeon	Laib	Uncommon
<i>Gallicolumba canifrons</i> ²	Palau ground dove	Omekrengukl	Rare
<i>Ptilinopus pelewensis</i> ²	Palau fruit dove	Biib	Abundant
<i>Ducula oceanica</i>	Micronesian pigeon	Belochel	Common
<i>Pyrroglaux podargina</i> ²	Palau owl	Chesuch	Common
<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	Jungle nightjar	Chebacheb	Uncommon
<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	Greater sulphur-crested cockatoo	Iakkotsiang	Uncommon
<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	Eclectus Parrot	Iakkotsiang (Japanese)	Uncommon
<i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>	Vanikoro swiftlet	Chesisekiaid	Abundant
<i>Halcyon cinnamomina</i>	Micronesian kingfisher	Cherosech	Common
<i>Halcyon chlorus</i>	Collared kingfisher	Tengadidik	Common
<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>	Cicadabird	Kinidukall	Uncommon
<i>Colluricincla tenebrosa</i> ²	Palau morningbird	Tutau	Common
<i>Myiagra erythrops</i> ²	Palau flycatcher	Charmelachull	Common
<i>Rhipidura lepida</i> ²	Palau fantail	Melimdelebbeb, Chesisirech on Peleliu	Common
<i>Cettia annae</i> ²	Palau bush-warbler	Wuul	Common
<i>Aplonis opaca</i>	Micronesian starling	Kiuid	Abundant
<i>Zosterops cenereus</i>	Dusky white-eye	Chetitalial	Abundant
<i>Zosterops conspicillatus</i>	Bridled white-eye (Carolina Islands white-eye)	Charmbedl	Common
<i>Megazosterops palauensis</i> ²	Palau greater white-eye	Charmbedel	Common
<i>Myzomela rubratra</i>	Cardinal honeyeater	Chesisebangiau	Common
<i>Erythrura trichroa</i>	Blue-faced Parrotfinch	--	Rare

BREEDING SEABIRDS

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
<i>Puffinus Iherminiera</i>	Audubon Shearwater	Ochaieu	Abundant
<i>Phaetou lepturus</i>	White-tailed tropicbird	Dudek	Common
<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Little pied cormorant	Deroech	Common
<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>	Black-naped tern	Kerkirs	Common
<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	Bridled tern	Bedebedechakl	Common
<i>Fregata minor</i>	Great frigatebird	Kedam	Abundant
<i>Fregata ariel</i>	Lesser frigatebird	Kedam	Common

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<i>Fregata ariel</i>	Lesser frigatebird	Kedam	Common
<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Great crested tern	Roall	Common
<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Brown noddy	Mechadelbedaoch	Abundant
<i>Anous minutus</i>	Black noddy	Bedaoch	Abundant
<i>Gygis alba</i>	Common fairy-tern	Sechosech	Common

MIGRATORY BIRDS (Migrate through or to Palau, generally in winter months only)

Scientific Name	English Name	Palauan Name	Relative Abundance*
<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Intermediate egret	Sechou	Uncommon
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little egret	Sechou	Uncommon
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	Oterilakelat	Uncommon
<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Lesser golden plover	Derariik	Common
<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Wood sandpiper	--	Common
<i>Heteriscelus brevipes</i>	Gray-tailed sandpiper	--	Common
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common sandpiper	Bengobaingukl	Common
<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Whimbrel	Okak	Common
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Ruddy turnstone	--	Common
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Rufous-necked stint	--	Common
<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>	Oriental cuckoo	Charmudrenge	Uncommon
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn swallow	Tsubamer (Japanese)	Common
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow wagtail	--	Uncommon

Relative Abundance

- Abundant Almost certain to be found in numbers within representative habitat.
- Common A few individuals almost certain to be found within representative habitat. Common migrants arrive annually in numbers.
- Uncommon Not certain to be found within representative habitat. Uncommon migrants arrive annually, but are generally seen only a few times during the year.
- Rare Only a very limited population present. Rare migrants genrally do not arrive annually.

¹ Endemic to Palau

² Listed as endangered species

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Table J. Management Options to Protect Biliou WWII Historic Sites, and a Portion of the Rock Islands

	NO PARK ESTABLISHED	OPTION C	OPTION D	OPTION E	OPTION F	OPTION G
EFFECTS ON	Modify existing National Historic Landmark to reduce the boundary to include only the most significant sites or features deleting other areas so as not to preempt other vital land uses, either existing or potential.	Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary to establish a Biliou State Historical Park and/or establish a sample of internationally significant Rock Islands as a state park each administered by the individual States of the Republic of Palau.	Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary to establish as a Biliou National Historical Park administered by the Republic of Palau.	Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary to establish as a Biliou National Historical Park in association with the U. S. National Park Service.	Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary and add a sample of Palau's internationally significant Rock Islands to the proposal to establish a Biliou-Chelbacheb National Park administered by the Republic of Palau.	Utilize the modified National Historical Landmark boundary and add a sample of Palau's internationally significant Rock Islands to the proposal to establish a Biliou-Chelbacheb National Park in association with the U. S. National Park Service.
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC SITES	All developments only within the newly defined landmark boundary funded by U. S. or Palau must be reviewed to mitigate damage to the landmark.	State park designation would likely specify that historic sites must be protected.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve significant historic places in perpetuity.
NATIVE TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS	no effect	State Park designation sometimes offers protection to native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve native ecosystems.
MARINE ECOSYSTEMS	no effect	State park designation would likely specify that marine ecosystems must be protected.	no effect	no effect	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve marine ecosystems.	National Park status and management is known world-wide as the best guarantee to preserve marine ecosystems.
EDUCATION, INTERPRETATION, OR EXPLANATION TO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS	none	Park guides would offer some visitor orientation.	Park history guides on Biliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.	Park history guides on Biliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.	Park history guides on Biliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.	Park history guides on Biliou, a visitor center, and the National Museum on Oreor would offer visitor interpretation.
TOURIST INDUSTRY	Identifies historic sites for preservation. These sites draw some visitors to Palau and	Designates a visitor attraction and provides information to tourists. Results in some people	Designates a visitor attraction and provides information to tourists. Results in some people	Designates a visitor attraction and provides information to tourists. Results in some people	Designates a "world class" national park which attracts visitors in its own right and encourages nearly all	Designates a "world class" national park which attracts visitors in its own right and

TABLE J. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

		entice all to stay longer.	staying longer to visit this state park.	visiting Palau and others staying longer to visit the national park.	visiting Palau and others staying longer to visit the national park.	visitors to stay longer in Palau.	encourages nearly all visitors to stay longer in Palau.
	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM U. S. FOR PARK OPERATIONS	no potential	no potential	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands to preserve a place of great importance in U. S. history, then a compelling case can be made for the U. S. to assist with operations costs.	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands to preserve a place of great importance in U. S. history and a natural resource of international significance, then a compelling case can be made for the U. S. to assist with operations costs.
	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM U. S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	no potential	no potential	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands to preserve a place of great U. S. importance, then U. S. National Park Service would provide technical assistance.	no potential	If Palau would establish a national park with their lands and waters to preserve a place of great U. S. and international importance, then U. S. National Park Service would provide technical assistance.
	HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANT ASSISTANCE FROM U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site (Peleliu Battlefield NHL) is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.	This National Register site (Peleliu Battlefield NHL) is eligible for grant funding from the U. S.
	FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM PALAU NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR PARK OPERATIONS	none	unlikely	high potential	probable	high potential	probable
	RECREATION USE OF OCEAN, BEACHES, SCENIC SPACE FOR PALAUAN RESIDENTS	no effect	no effect	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches for public use.	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches for public use.	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches and part of Rock Islands for public use.	Preserves White, Orange, Scarlet, and Purple Beaches and part of Rock Islands for public use.
	RESTITUTION TO LOCAL CLAN OR VILLAGE FOR USE OF LAND OR WATERS	none	probably none	It is possible to have a park fee or toll charge to outsiders-- part of which	A park fee (collected from outsiders) is normal in national	It is possible to have a park fee or toll charge to outsiders-- part of which	A park fee (collected from outsiders) is normal in national

TABLE J. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

			would be paid to landowners.	parks. Portions of this fee could be used to reimburse owners for dedicating their land as a park.	would be paid to landowners.	parks. Portions of this fee could be used to reimburse owners for dedicating their land as a park.
JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS See Appendix B	no effect	This might create a few jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic or scenic places.	This might create several jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.	This might create several jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.	This might create about a dozen jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.	This might create about a dozen jobs for local people and provide some intermittent pay for local guides to historic places.
SUBSISTANCE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS BY LOCAL PEOPLE	no effect	no effect	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.	Most Pacific parks allow traditional subsistence uses by local people if this does not impair the resource.
SPORT HUNTING OF BIRDS, CROCODILES, SEA TURTLES, ETC.	no effect	no effect	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.	Sport hunting within park boundaries is usually illegal.
LOCAL FARM PLOTS OF TARO, CASSAVA, ETC.	no effect	no effect	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.	These plots farmed in present manner would not be affected.
LOCAL FARM PLOTS OF MARIJUANA	no effect	no effect	Plots within park would probably be removed for public safety.	Experience in U. S. parks is that visitors' safety is jeopardized by marijuana growers, and so park rangers have removed all marijuana plots.	Plots within park would probably be removed for public safety.	Experience in U. S. parks is that visitors' safety is jeopardized by marijuana growers, and so park rangers have removed all marijuana plots.
SUBSISTENCE FISHING AND GATHERING BY LOCAL PEOPLE	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	No effect unless resource may be impaired.	No effect unless resource may be impaired.
COMMERCIAL FISHING	no effect	no effect	no effect	no effect	Would restrict foreign operations that exploit resources.	Would restrict foreign operations that exploit resources.
COMMERCIAL TIMBER CUTTING	little effect	little effect	Might foreclose commercial timber operations.	Forecloses commercial timber operations.	Might foreclose commercial timber operations.	Forecloses commercial timber operations.
EXTENSIVE COMMERCIAL ENDEAVORS THAT MAKE NOISE, FUMES, POISON, POLLUTION, ETC.	little effect	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.	Not permitted in parks.
ROAD	All	All	Road	Road	Road	Road

TABLE J. MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

CONSTRUCTION	developments within the newly defined Landmark boundary funded by U. S. or Palau must be reviewed to mitigate damage to the Landmark. Otherwise, no effect.	developments within the newly defined Landmark boundary funded by U. S. or Palau must be reviewed to mitigate damage to the Landmark. Otherwise, no effect.	construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.	construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.	construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.	construction would have to be in accord with park master plan.
CONSTRUCTION OF "MEMORIALS" TO COMMEMORATE WWII CASUALTIES	little effect	little effect	Probably this option would put more rigorous requirements which would prohibit constructing future memorials in the park.	"Memorials" in U. S. National Parks are very rarely allowed. Likely new memorials would not be permitted in the park.	Probably this option would put more rigorous requirements which would prohibit constructing future memorials in the park.	"Memorials" in U. S. National Parks are very rarely allowed. Likely new memorials would not be permitted in the park.
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION - - RESIDENTIAL HOUSES, COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES	no effect	little effect	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.	Buildings and structures within a park and unrelated to the park master plan are not normally allowed.
NATIONAL PRIDE	Landmark designation of Peleliu has called attention to the significance of this place.	A park of this stature merits substantial local pride for Peleliu residents.	A park of this stature merits substantial local pride for Palau residents.	A park of this stature merits substantial local pride for Palau residents.	A great national park with both well-preserved war ruins and highly scenic Rock Islands would be a source of great pride for all Palau citizens.	A great national park with both well-preserved war ruins and highly scenic Rock Islands would be a source of great pride for all Palau citizens.
PERMANENCE OR LONG- TERM STABILITY OF THIS OPTION	May be redesignated by Historic Preservation Office of Palau.	May be redesignated by Historic Preservation Office of Palau.	Can only be redesignated by the Palau government and dependent upon future funding by the Palau government.	Worldwide -- national park status is known to provide the greatest assurance of permanence.	Can only be redesignated by the Palau government and dependent upon future funding by the Palau government.	Worldwide -- national park status is known to provide the greatest assurance of permanence.

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